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STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 153 ©SS 2019

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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Drills delayed in 'goodwill gesture' to North Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea will postpone a planned joint air exercise that was criticized by the North, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Sunday.

Esper said he didn't see the move as a concession to the communist state but a "goodwill gesture" that he hopes North Korea will reciprocate by returning to nuclear talks.

The surprise decision came after North Korea issued statements lashing out at the upcoming joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise and warning that it's running out of patience for Washington to soften its denuclearization demands.

Esper made the announcement at a news conference with South Korean counterpart Jeong Kyeong-doo on the sidelines of a meeting of regional defense ministers in Bangkok.

The allies had announced plans to hold later this month what they said would be a scaled-back combined flying training event in place of the previous annual drills known as Vigilant Ace.

But the North was not satisfied with the changes and warned last week that the U.S. would face "shocking punishment" if "the hostile provocation is committed."

Esper and Jeong said Sunday that the decision to postpone the drill was made after "close consultation and careful consideration." No new date was announced.

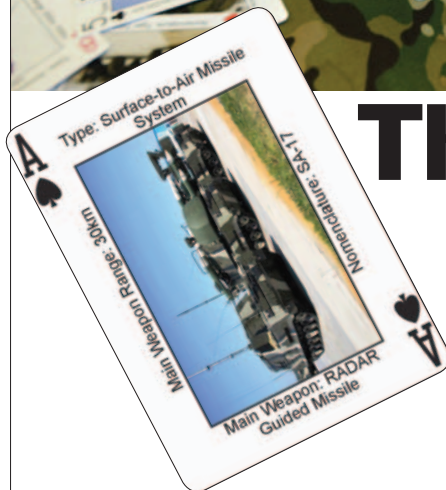
"We have made this decision as an act of goodwill to contribute to an environment

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INSIDE

■ Esper says 'wealthy' S. Korea should shoulder greater burden of cost for US troops on peninsula

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The hand to beat

Weaponry-themed cards a hit with service members

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An ace of spades embellished with a Russian-made SA-17 could tip a game of Texas Hold 'em in a soldier's favor while also helping him identify a surface-to-air missile system on the ground.

The Army has a new line of playing cards featuring military weapons used by Russia, China and Iran — countries the Pentagon has identified as potential threats.

The cards are proving so popular that more than

SEE CARDS ON PAGE 6

Top: A soldier uses playing cards released by Army Training and Doctrine Command featuring vehicles and weapons used by Russia, China and Iran. Above: The ace of spades in the Russian deck shows the SA-17, a surface-to-air missile system.

U.S. Army photos

MILITARY

Milley declares Pacific top priority in 1st overseas trip

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Pacific is now the top priority for the U.S. military, Gen. Mark Milley said Thursday in Tokyo while on his first overseas trip since becoming chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September.

Milley was addressing a group of Japanese and American reporters after concluding a meeting with Japanese leaders, the Pentagon said in a statement.

The U.S. focus on the Pacific region is a result of the emerging great-power competition among America, China and Russia.

"It is the No. 1 regional priority for the United States military," he told reporters.

Milley's weeklong trip to Japan and South Korea comes amid renewed disagreements between the two U.S. allies, disputes arising from Japan's occupation of the Korean peninsula from 1905

to 1945.

South Korea has announced it is withdrawing from an intelligence-sharing agreement signed with Japan in 2016.

Milley told reporters Nov. 11 that the agreement — which could expire as early as this week — is key for regional stability and security.

Quarrels between Japan and South Korea only serve adversaries, he said.

"It is clearly in China's interests and North Korea's interests to separate South Korea from Japan and the United States," Milley said Monday. "It is in our interests to keep all three of us very closely aligned."

"We've got to get past some of these friction points in a way that is helpful to the alliance," he said.

The alliance needs to resolve such friction points by focusing on common values and security needs, he said.

Milley touted the size and scope of America's defense presence in the Pacific, with more than 300,000 service members and Defense Department civilians under the umbrella of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

He spoke pointedly about China with reporters Thursday.

"We need to continue to engage with China," he said. "China is a strategic competitor to be sure, [but] it doesn't necessarily mean that China becomes an adversary in the military sense of the word or an enemy."

"But having said that, it's important that the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other friends and allies in the region remain unified."

China's extraordinary economic growth over the past 20 years has resulted in the rapid expansion of its military capabilities, he said.

China's growing military might have emboldened the nation's



DOMINIQUE PINEIRO/Defense Department

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga at the Kantei in Tokyo on Wednesday.

sweeping claims of sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, which neighboring nations contest.

U.S. military troops stationed in Japan are essential in projecting power in the region, but restrictions on the available types of training in Japan is a challenge to maintaining readiness, Milley said.

He told reporters he had discussed this topic with Japanese

counterparts during the visit.

"I would also say that constraints and restraints on military training [are] not unique to Japan," he said. "It exists in Korea; it exists in Germany; it exists in the continental United States. Things like environmental issues, issues with the neighboring communities and towns of various military bases."

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Marine deserter's mother names him in fatal shooting of her boyfriend

Associated Press

ROANOKE, Va. — The mother of a wanted Marine told investigators that she saw her son kill his boyfriend, according to a federal criminal complaint.

The criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Roanoke, Va., on Wednesday shows Vanessa

Hanson told a U.S. marshal that she witnessed Michael Alexander Brown, 22, fatally shoot her boyfriend, Rodney Wilfred Brown, Nov. 9 at a home in Hardy.

According to the complaint, Hanson also identified Brown's getaway vehicle through pictures obtained from a gas station just before the shooting.

The vehicle was later found near Clarendon County, S.C., about four hours southwest of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, where he had been stationed as a U.S. Marine until leaving his post last month.

Investigators think the Marine deserter was trying to contact his grandmother when a neighbor

saw him in Roanoke on Thursday morning, Police Chief Tim Jones said at a news conference. Authorities believe Brown was driving a recreational vehicle, which was discovered by police nearby later that day.

Law enforcement approached the RV, but Brown was not inside. Photos showed the RV suffered

significant damage.

The search for Brown began after someone called 911 around 4 a.m. Thursday to report that someone was tapping on the windows of a nearby house. Jones said Brown's grandmother lives at that house and they believe he was trying to contact her and his mother.

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PACIFIC

Esper urges S. Korea to increase share of costs

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea is a wealthy country and should increase its share of the cost for stationing some 28,500 U.S. troops on the divided peninsula by the end-of-year deadline, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Friday.

Esper also called on Seoul to reverse its decision to cancel a military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan before the Nov. 23 expiration date. The United States fears the termination of the agreement will jeopardize security as North Korea has resumed weapons testing amid stalled nuclear talks.

Both issues have become major irritants in the long-standing alliance between the two countries, which fought together in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The South Koreans have bristled at the U.S. administration's reported demand to increase Seoul's share of the burden five-fold. The current contract, known



Department of Defense

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper, left, and his South Korean counterpart, Jeong Kyeong-doo, greet each other during alliance talks known as the Security Consultative Meeting in Seoul, South Korea, on Friday.

as the Special Measures Agreement, expires at the end of the year.

CNN, citing an anonymous congressional aide and an admin-

istration official, said Thursday that it has confirmed that President Donald Trump has demanded that South Korea pay nearly \$5 billion, as other news outlets have

reported. The two sides failed to reach agreement in time for the deadline last year but eventually agreed to a retroactive stopgap measure in which South Korea increased its share by about 8.2% to some \$920 million. However, that deal was extended for only one year, unlike previous iterations that lasted five years.

"South Korea is a wealthy country and could and should pay more to help offset the cost of defense," Esper said during a joint press conference with his South Korean counterpart, Jeong Kyeong-doo, after the two sides held annual alliance talks known as the Security Consultative Meeting.

"It is crucial that we conclude the SMA with increased burden-sharing by the Republic of Korea before the end of the year," he added.

Jeong said he shared the view with Esper that the cost-sharing pact should be fair and mutually agreeable, according to the Yonhap News Agency, but neither of-

ficial gave specific figures.

Esper also acknowledged that South Korea has provided "a fair amount of support" but said most of the funding ended up back in the local economy.

The SMA funds have been used mostly to offset the salaries of more than 9,000 local employees who provide food and administrative services and other logistical costs, as well as construction costs.

The South Koreans also point out that they funded most of the \$11 billion-plus cost of expanding Camp Humphreys, a U.S. Army post south of Seoul that has become the military's new headquarters base, as part of a separate agreement.

Esper, who arrived in Seoul on Thursday for his second visit to the country since he took office, later met with President Moon Jae-in and several other senior officials.

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Drills: Secretary reaffirms US commitment to maintain current level of military personnel in Korea

FROM FRONT PAGE

conducive to diplomacy and the advancement of peace," Esper said, according to media reports from the press conference.

"We encourage [North Korea] to demonstrate the same goodwill," he added, urging the North "to return to the negotiating table without precondition or hesitation."

He stressed the decades-old U.S.-South Korean alliance remains "ironclad" and vowed the combined forces would maintain readiness to "fight tonight."

Esper raised the possibility of a change to the joint training plans last week during a visit to South Korea, where he met with Jeong in the 51st allied Security Consultative Meeting.

He also reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to "provide extended deterrence to [South Korea] using the full range of military capabilities, including U.S. nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities," according to the joint communiqué from the meeting.

The two sides also noted the "critical role" played by some 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

"Given the current security environment, the secretary also reaffirmed the commitment to maintain the current level of the U.S. military personnel in [South Korea] and to enhance combat

readiness," they added.

The allies have canceled or reduced the scope of many of their joint military exercises after President Donald Trump announced he was "stopping the war games" after his first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last year.

Commanders insist the lack of massive combined drills has not harmed defense capabilities as they continue to conduct low-profile tactical training.

Talks aimed at persuading the North to give up its nuclear weapons have faltered due to sharp disagreements over the extent of sanctions relief in exchange for disarmament measures.

Kim has given the U.S. an end-of-year deadline to offer a more flexible approach to negotiations, hinting that he may resume long-range missile or nuclear tests if that doesn't happen.

The North already has conducted several missile and rocket tests this year, raising worries that it is improving its arsenal amid the deadlock.

Trump has dismissed such concerns, insisting that the launches didn't pose a threat to the U.S. and he maintains a good relationship with Kim.

North Korea also staged a military air show with Kim in attendance, state-run media reported this past weekend.

"Our pilots have to try to fight the enemies armed to the teeth... under any circumstances," Kim was quoted as saying by the Korean Central News Agency.

"He stressed that however



Korean Central News Agency

North Korea holds a military air show in the eastern town of Wonsan. The date is not known.

loudly the enemies may brag about their technological advantages, they can never overwhelm the politico-ideological and combat and moral advantages of our service personnel," it added.

The report released several photos but didn't provide details about the aircraft involved in the demonstration.

A senior State Department official, meanwhile, called on China to take action to prevent efforts to evade sanctions against the North such as ship-to-ship transfers of coal and oil they said takes place in Chinese waters.

"On North Korea, I urged Beijing to maintain pressure on the regime, noting the space for a diplomatic solution is quickly closing," the official told reporters during a briefing, according to a transcript provided by the State Department.



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

In this undated photo provided on Saturday by the North Korean government, leader Kim Jong Un, front center, poses with pilots during his inspection of a flight demonstration of military aircraft at an airfield in North Korea.

MILITARY

US pilot shot down in 1945 in Italy honored

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

First Lt. Loren Hintz didn't exactly disappear without a trace when he died.

The P-47 Thunderbolt he was piloting on his 64th and final mission in April 1945 set an Italian farmhouse ablaze when it was brought down by German machine-gun fire.

But only a fraction of Hintz's remains were recovered and buried under a marble cross bearing his name at the Florence American Cemetery.

Seventy-four years later, some 200 family members and friends gathered Saturday at the cemetery to bury the last of Hintz's remains and effects in the first burial to occur at the closed cemetery since 1951. His great-grandchildren laid a laurel wreath, Ritz crackers, which Hintz had requested in his last letter home, were included in a burial box.

Hintz, a pilot with the 86th Fighter Squadron, 79th Fighter Group, 12th Air Force, was listed as missing in action for weeks.

The war in Europe ended just weeks after Hintz's plane crashed. His death was confirmed after his pistol and some charred bone fragments were found at the crash site east of Bologna. Hintz's death left a widow with two toddlers and another baby soon to be born.

"We said a prayer for him every night," said his daughter, Gretchen Wronka, 75, of Bloomington, Minn.

Fifty-five years after Hintz died, Wronka typed "P-47" and a simple question into an internet search engine: "Did anyone serve with Lt. Hintz?"

That was the beginning of a two-decade journey that would lead Hintz's descendants to the spot where his plane and remains lay entombed 15 feet below ground, and where they would be



brought up from the earth three years ago.

"We finally met him in 2016, and now we're saying goodbye," Wronka said.

Hintz, an Iowa farm boy who wrote poetry, kept a journal and had an interest in Native American dance, loved his time as a military pilot, his family said. He was 27 when he died.

"He was an idealist, a dreamer," said Wronka, a librarian.

"Our mother never remarried. She said no one could measure up to him," said his son, Martin Hintz, 73, a Wisconsin farmer who was born two months after his father died.

Hintz's life and death also intrigued his grandson, Hans Wronka. A geologist, Hans pored over archived military reports and maps as he searched for surviving members of Hintz's former unit.

In 2012, an Italian pilot named Piero Fabbri saw one of Hans Wronka's internet queries and emailed him.

Fabbri, an amateur researcher of American aircraft shot down in Italy during World War II, said he thought he'd located where Hintz crashed. He'd even found a local man who, as a boy, had seen the

plane go down and the farmhouse burn on April 21, 1945, he said.

Electromagnetic imaging of the site confirmed something large and metallic was underground.

Three generations of the Hintz family traveled to Italy for the excavation. Much of the town of Bagnarola also turned out.

"The local priest came, Carabinieri, a lot of uniforms," Martin Hintz said. "The only common language was love and the appreciation of human life."

It was an emotional day, Wronka said.

"The roar of the crowd when the P-47's engine was brought up. You could smell the oil," she said. "After that everyone understood that just behind the engine was the cockpit ..."

An archaeologist sifted out the lieutenant's dog tags and gently handed them to Wronka. "It was a sacred moment. Like a last touch of human flesh," she said. The Hintz family said their loss was shared with all families of those sacrificed in war.

"It's so important we remember people who've gone before," Martin Hintz said. "Never leave anyone behind."

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Above: First Lt. Loren Hintz, an Iowa farm boy turned P-47 pilot, was killed in action in the skies over Italy in April 1945.

Left: The dog tag belonging to Hintz was recovered in an excavation three years ago in Italy, where Hintz's P-47 Thunderbolt crashed in April 1945.

Top left: Hintz stands in front of a British Wellington bomber.

Gretchen Wronka and Martin Hintz



US Army plans Big Isle drill in Hawaii with Chinese soldiers

By WILLIAM COLE
The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

An opening ceremony will be held Monday on Hawaii island in a military exercise with China that will involve about 100 People's Liberation Army soldiers training alongside U.S. Army counterparts.

This comes after Adm. Phil Davidson, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, spoke on Veterans Day at Punchbowl cemetery about the "rules-based international order" that followed U.S. victory in the Pacific in World War II, and China's attempts to usurp it.

Those American standards "are even more important today," Davidson said, "as malicious actors like the Communist Party of China seek to redefine the international order through corruption, malign cyber activities, intellectual property theft, restriction of individual liberties, military coercion and the direct attempts to override other nations' sovereignty."

China was invited into the prestigious Ring of Pacific maritime exercises in Hawaii in 2014 and 2016 (the drills are

held every two years) but it wasn't allowed to participate in 2018.

China sent a spy ship to monitor the event anyway in 2018. The rising Asian power is not likely to take part in the summer 2020 RIMPAC, either.

"China has not been involved in the planning process," which is nearing its midpoint, said Cmdr. John Page, a spokesman for the Navy's 3rd Fleet in San Diego, which plans the exercise.

The U.S. government in recent years has been more strident than ever in condemning China as a revisionist power and taken steps to interdict Chinese espionage and influence. A bitter trade war has added to the tension.

So it makes the dwindling military-to-military exercises such as the "disaster management exchange" planned through Nov. 26 on the Big Island stand out that much more as the exception to the growing rule.

U.S. Army Pacific said the exchange with the People's Liberation Army is part of its "Pacific Resilience" program, a series of exercises that ensures the United States

"is prepared to assist our global partners in the event of a major disaster."

About 100 U.S. participants will join the like number of Chinese soldiers and bring to the exercise medical, search and rescue and engineering personnel with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief experience, said Maj. Oliver Schuster, a spokesman for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command in Hawaii.

The event marks the 15th iteration of the exchange, which is now rotated annually between China and the United States. Last year, U.S. Army Pacific troops traveled to Nanjing, China.

The training at Kilauea Military Camp will center on a volcanic eruption in a notional country and coordination processes between the People's Liberation Army, the U.S. Army and a multinational coordination center, Schuster said.

"This exchange is important to maintain as it improves our ability to save lives, protect property, and better prepare for the next major disaster in the Indo-Pacific," Schuster said in an email.

The United States "remains committed

to maintaining military-to-military relations with China" characterized by dialogue, a commitment to risk reduction and coordination in areas of mutual interest such as disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, he said.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2000 prohibits military-to-military engagement with China if that interaction could "create a national security risk" due to exposure to operational areas, including advanced combined-arms and joint combat operations.

Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in May hosted more than two dozen People's Liberation Army Air Force Command College members in a reciprocal visit that followed a trip by members of the U.S. Air War College to China in March.

"The program allows members of both militaries to tour and meet with representatives and leadership, and to share perspectives and develop lines of communication," Pacific Air Forces said in a news release.

MIDEAST

Afghanistan prisoner swap delay slows restart of Taliban talks

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — A planned prisoner swap between the Afghan government and the Taliban intended to restart peace talks between the insurgent group and the United States has been delayed, according to Afghan and Taliban officials.

The emergence of significant snags early on highlights the difficulty of getting the two sides back to the negotiating table. The Taliban has long refused to negotiate directly with the Afghan government.

The swap would have freed two university professors in exchange for three high-profile militants linked to the Taliban. President Ashraf Ghani announced the deal on live television a week ago, saying it would help bring "peace and stability" to Afghanistan.

The professors, Kevin King, a U.S. citizen, and Timothy Weeks, an Australian, have been held by the Taliban since August 2016, when gunmen ambushed their vehicle in central Kabul and abducted them.

The militants who were set for release are Mali Khan, Hafiz Rashid and Anas Haqqani, a younger brother of the Taliban's deputy leader and son of the Haqqani network's founder. They

are being held in a government detention center at Bagram air base. (The Haqqani network is an insurgent group closely allied with the Taliban.)

But days after Ghani's announcement, none of the prisoners have been released and the government and Taliban officials are trading blame.

Sedij Seddigi, a spokesman for Ghani, blamed the Taliban for the delay, saying the insurgents "failed to observe the conditions" of the swap and caused "the disruption of the exchange process," according to a tweet Saturday. Seddigi did not elaborate.

A spokesman for the Taliban said the United States was to blame. Zabullah Mujahid said the agreement fell apart when the Taliban-linked militants were not transferred to a second location before they were to be flown out of Afghanistan to Qatar, where the Taliban has an office.

U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan John Bass declined to comment on the details of the proposed deal, but he tweeted his support for the delay and suggested it may be linked to recent attacks in Afghanistan that have killed civilians.

Airstrikes kill at least 9 in northwest Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Airstrikes on rebel-held areas in Syria's northwest province of Idlib killed at least nine people Sunday, an opposition war monitor and a paramedic group said.

Syrian troops launched a four-month offensive earlier this year against the country's last opposition stronghold, which is dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants. The government offensive forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes. A fragile cease-fire halted the advance at the end of August, but in recent weeks it has been repeatedly violated.

Syrian President Bashar Assad said his forces will soon retake Idlib. In a recent interview with a Russian TV station, Assad said that they are now giving civilians some time to leave the area.

The Syrian Civil Defense said five people, including three women, were killed in the village of Mallaja while four others were killed in airstrikes on the northern outskirts of the town of Saraqeb, a major town on the highway linking the capital Damascus with the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest.

The highway was being closed since 2012, when rebels captured several towns on it. Reopening the highway was the main aim of the government offensive that began April 30.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said six people were killed in Mallaja. It added that six other people were killed in the province, including two fighters.

In an area controlled by Turkey in the neighboring province of Aleppo, opposition activists said Turkey-backed fighters opened fire on a group of protesters who were demanding a suspected car bomber be executed.

The Observatory said the protesters tried to storm a police station in the town of al-Bab, and that one protester was killed. The protesters were reportedly calling for authorities to execute a man detained on suspicion of setting off a car bomb in al-Bab on Saturday. That blast killed 19 people.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said the suspect detained in connection to Saturday's bombing was a member of the main Kurdish militia, according to Turkey's official Anadolu news agency.



Hadi MIZBAN/AP

Anti-government demonstrators run from tear gas fired by Iraqi riot police during clashes in al-Rashid Street, Baghdad, on Sunday.

Iraqi protester killed amid clashes on Baghdad bridge

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An anti-government protester in Iraq was killed Sunday by a direct hit to the head from a tear gas canister amid fresh clashes on a strategic Baghdad bridge, security and medical officials said.

At least 32 others were wounded in violent clashes with security forces, just hours after protesters retook control of half of Ahrah Bridge. The protesters now hold three bridges spanning the Tigris River toward the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government. Security forces had deployed Sunday on the other side of the bridge and erected concrete barriers to keep protesters from pushing into Green Zone.

Two Katyusha rockets also fell in the vicinity of the Green Zone on Sunday, but caused no casualties. One hit the Tigris River and the other fell on an empty soccer stadium, security officials said. The officials all spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Elsewhere in parts of central and southern Iraq, protesters blocked roads with burning tires, halting traffic and paralyzing work following a call for a national strike.

Since the protests began Oct. 1, at least 320 people have been killed and thousands wounded in the capital and the mostly Shiite southern provinces. Protesters have taken to the streets in the tens of thousands over what they say is widespread corruption, lack of job opportunities and poor basic services despite the country's oil wealth.

The leaderless, mass protests aim to sweep aside Iraq's political elite, blamed for massive corruption.

Bridge leading toward the Green Zone have been a frequent

flashpoint in the protests. Demonstrators took control of those bridges earlier this month but were later repelled when security forces took harsh suppressive measures.

The protesters managed to push back onto part of Ahrah Bridge on Sunday, after seizing part of Sinak Bridge and central Khilani Square the previous day following fierce clashes. They were also present in Junhouriyya Bridge adjacent to Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the protest movement.

Iraqi security forces withdrew from Khilani Square after firing live ammunition and tear gas against protesters trying to tear down a concrete barrier blocking entry to the square.

Protesters also took control of a five-story parking garage adjacent to the bridge, giving them a bird's eye view over the Green Zone and the street below, mirroring tactics employed in Tahrir Square, where they occupied an iconic 14-story Saddam Hussein-era building that has become a reference point for demonstrators.

Two people were wounded when security forces fired tear gas canisters in renewed confrontations on Baghdad's famous Rasheed Street, its oldest avenue and cultural center known for its crumbling houses.

In the southern port city of Basra and in cities like Nasiriyah, Amara and Kut, protesters set tires ablaze to close off roads, keeping employees from reaching their work places. Schools, universities and other institutions closed for the day.

In parts of Baghdad, particularly the sprawling Sadr City neighborhood, protesters sat in the middle of the streets to prevent employees from getting to their workplaces. They also blocked roads with motorcycles and tuk-tuks, snarling traffic.

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MILITARY

Smart watch data shows pilot survived hours after crash

By SETH ROBBIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Smart watch data suggests a Marine Corps pilot who ejected from his F/A-18 Hornet after colliding with a KC-130J tanker last year off the coast of Japan was alive on the surface of the ocean for nearly 10 hours before he drowned.

The heart rate data included in a command investigation report on the incident, which claimed the life of Capt. Jahmar Resilard, 28, along with five Marines in the tanker. The group flew out of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, near Hiroshima.

Resilard — referred to as “MP2” by investigators — was wearing a Garmin Fenix 3 smart watch when he ejected from the fighter jet at 1:44 a.m. on Dec. 6, 2018, according to the command investigation report released Sept. 26.

The data from the watch indicated that MP2’s heart was beating at an average of 86 beats per minute until approximately 1130,” the report states.

“MP2’s Garmin smart watch indicates that MP2 was alive on the surface of the ocean from approximately 0145 until approximately 1130 (nine hours and 45 minutes) in 68 degree Fahrenheit water.”

Resilard’s body was brought on board a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship, the JS Setoyuki, at 12:22 p.m., the report states.

An autopsy report showed the drowned aviator had cuts and

bruises, a head injury and appeared to have drowned.

Investigators noted that neither Resilard nor his weapons officer, who also ejected but was rescued from an inflatable raft, were wearing anti-exposure suits that can prolong survival in cold water.

Marine and Navy aviators are given the option of wearing the suits based on factors such as likely rescue response time, water temperature and their body fat.

None of the witnesses interviewed from the downed Hornet’s unit — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 — had worn or observed others in the unit wearing anti-exposure suits, the investigators noted.

A Top Gun fighter tactics instructor graduate in the squadron, when asked about the suits in the context of the mishap, told investigators he wouldn’t have worn one during a night mission over 68-degree water.

“I wouldn’t wear it. They’re a huge pain,” the unnamed pilot said in the report.

The downed Hornet’s weapons officer was recovered alive at 5:43 a.m. by a Japanese military SH-60 helicopter, four hours after ejecting, and taken to Komatsushima, Japan, the report states.

In his interview, the officer talked about struggling to survive, shivering and bailing water from a raft while awaiting rescue.

He told investigators that he assumed rescuers would respond within 30 minutes, later amending his answer to 50 minutes.

The Marine Corps doesn’t have search-and-rescue capability at MCAS Iwakuni, investigators noted.

In 2000, the commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing determined that Japanese search-and-rescue assets provided adequate coverage for the Iwakuni-based Marine Aircraft Group 12 and removed the Marines’ in-house capabilities, according to the report.

Japanese forces can launch search-and-rescue assets within 15 minutes of notification if they are already out conducting operations, the report states. Otherwise, the response time can be more than two hours.

Four officers from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 — its commander, executive officer, operations officer and aviation safety officer — were fired as a result of the investigation. It uncovered a number of problems in the unit such as wrongful use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs by officers, including two involved in the fatal training mission.

Investigators’ recommendations included that the 1st Marine Air Wing conduct annual full-spectrum search-and-rescue exercises with all available host nations and joint assets.

The wing should also develop a “Memorandum of Understanding” with the Japanese government to define roles and responsibilities associated with search and rescue.

The Marines should also estab-



Photos by the U.S. Marine Corps

Capt. Jahmar Resilard died Dec. 6, 2018, after a collision between a fighter jet and a refueling plane off the coast of Japan.



Resilard was wearing a Garmin Fenix 3 smart watch when he ejected from the F/A Hornet at 1:44 a.m. after a midair collision with a KC-130J refueler, according to the command investigation report. Data from the watch indicated that his heart was beating at an average of 86 beats per minute until approximately 1130 a.m.

lish their own search-and-rescue capabilities at MCAS Iwakuni, investigators said.

Maj. Brian Block, a III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman, said in an email Thursday that the wing has been ordered to develop a “Search-and-Rescue (SAR) memorandum of understanding.”

In April, the wing conducted a search-and-rescue tabletop exercise with pilots from the Air Force, Navy and Japan Self-Defense Forces, Block said, adding that there will be follow-up exercises.

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Cards: Decks can be ordered through installation training support centers

FROM FRONT PAGE

70,000 decks have been distributed since they first were printed this summer. Army Training and Doctrine Command’s intelligence branch developed “Worldwide Equipment Identification” cards to help soldiers learn about the weapons and vehicles, the Army said in a statement last week.

The command distributed an initial print run of 9,800 packs of cards featuring Chinese vehicles and weapons in July. Supplies ran out after only three weeks.

“That’s when I think it just went viral,” said Fred Batchelor, a director in TRADOC’s intelligence section, the statement said.

Anyone can have the cards, he said.

“You don’t have to have a security clearance, you don’t have to be assigned to a special unit,” he said in the statement. “Everybody has access to these cards, and I think that’s what really sold them.”

To date, TRADOC has released

30,000 decks of Chinese weapons-themed playing cards and 38,000 packs of the Russian ones to service members. The 33,000 decks featuring Iranian equipment are the latest to be released, available to units since Oct. 9.

The cards, designed by Army Training Support Center graphic artist Robin Hicks, depict pictures of tanks, rocket launchers and air defense systems, among other weapons.

The 10 of hearts in the Iranian deck, for instance, shows a mul-

tiple rocket launcher.

More decks could be printed in the future, including some featuring vehicles and weapons belonging to friendly forces and adversaries, Batchelor said.

Soldiers and units can order the cards through their installation training support centers.

Playing cards has long been a favorite pastime for U.S. troops in major conflicts. The decks have changed as U.S. adversaries have changed.

During the Iraq War, the Pen-

tagon’s “55 most wanted” comprised a deck of key Iraqi leaders U.S. troops were supposed to pursue, kill or capture. Saddam Hussein was depicted on the ace of spades.

As a supplement to the physical cards, a digital card-memory game that soldiers can access on their devices is also available at TRADOC’s App Gateway, located at <https://public.tag.army.mil>.

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China sends 1st domestically built aircraft carrier through Taiwan Strait

By JESSE JOHNSON
Japan Times, Tokyo

China sent its second aircraft carrier, the first to be built domestically, through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, the Defense Ministry in Taipei said, with the carrier group shadowed by U.S. and Japanese naval vessels.

The carrier, known as the Type 002 and accompanied by a battle

group, sailed through the waterway from the East China Sea into the strait, the ministry said.

It said the Taiwanese military scrambled fighter jets in response and monitored the situation. No further details were immediately available.

The move came as Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen named former Prime Minister William Lai as her running mate in Janu-

ary’s elections. Lai last year angered Beijing by voicing support for the island nation’s formal independence.

“Just as @ingwen names her running mate & the campaign shifts into high gear, #PLA sends its new 002 aircraft carrier battle group into the #TaiwanStrait,” Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu wrote on Twitter. “#PRC intends to intervene in #Taiwan’s

elections. Voters won’t be intimidated! They’ll say NO to #China at the ballot box.”

PRC is the acronym for China’s formal name, the People’s Republic of China.

Taiwan, a democratically governed island, split from Communist Party-ruled mainland China after the civil war ended in 1949. Beijing views Taiwan as a renegade province that must be

brought back into the fold — by force if necessary.

Beijing has called Taiwan “the most important and sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations” and has bolstered its military presence near the island, holding large-scale “encirclement” exercises and bomber training throughout last year and into this year.

MILITARY

Dems call for probe into border deployment

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House Democrats on Friday charged that President Donald Trump's decision last year to send thousands of American troops to the U.S. southern border was politically motivated and rooted in racism as they renewed a call for the Pentagon inspector general to probe its legality.

Four representatives, each from southern border states, fingered Stephen Miller, a senior White House policy adviser, as the driving force behind Trump's controversial border policies, including his calls for building a wall and his decision last October to send thousands of active-duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border just ahead of the November 2018 midterm elections. The House members — Arizona's Raul M. Grijalva and Californians Barbara Lee, Judy Chu and Juan Vargas — labeled Miller a white nationalist, citing emails recently leaked to and partially published by the nonprofit Southern Poverty Law Center.

"We question the motivation, the legality and the political optics that are being created by Miller through Trump," Grijalva said Friday just outside the U.S. Capitol. "Make no mistake, this decision by Trump to deploy troops to

the border was not only alarming, it was unnecessary, and there are serious legal questions that the administration has refused to answer [for] almost a year since the president announced the first deployment."

The representatives said they and 30 other lawmakers sent a letter to the Pentagon IG in late September requesting an investigation. On Friday, they announced they had delivered 100,000 signatures supporting such a probe to the IG.

At issue, Grijalva said, is whether the deployment violates longstanding federal law barring U.S. troops from conducting domestic law enforcement operations. The 1878 Posse Comitatus Act forbids American military personnel from civilian law enforcement duties on U.S. soil, outside military installations.

"We feel this is an important question from the American people that deserves to be answered," he said. "Congress deserves to know why the Trump administration is politicizing our military and whether the Trump administration is forcing them to violate federal law under these orders."

The Defense Department's IG office received the letter requesting the probe in late September and it is "considering the request," Dwreana Allen, an IG spokeswoman, said Friday.

In October 2018, Trump ordered an active-duty deployment of thousands of troops to the southern border, warning of an impending crisis as a so-called caravan of Central American migrants approached the U.S.-Mexico border. Human rights groups and journalists traveling with the group reported the caravans consisted primarily of children and families seeking asylum.

The next month, Trump said he wanted troops to treat any asylum-seekers who threw rocks the same as they would an enemy with a firearm.

"We're not going to put up with that," Trump said on Nov. 1. "They want to throw rocks at our military, our military fights back. We're going to consider — I told them, 'Consider it a rifle.'"

Chu on Friday labeled such rhetoric from Trump "phony" and "clearly a lie" designed to stoke fear of immigrants to support his demands for a border wall and the military deployments.

"We have strong reasons to believe the deployment is not" legal, the congresswoman said. "Immigrants are not dangerous, and refugees who run to border agents in hopes of reaching safety are not a threat. But those facts do not miss Donald Trump's narrative."

After initially pushing back

against Trump's inclination to send large formations of armed troops to confront migrants, then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis approved a deployment of troops in support of short-handed U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. Those troops were not authorized to conduct law enforcement duties, Mattis said, defending the order as legal.

Since then, tens of thousands of troops have cycled through deployments at border locations in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, where they have served several roles, including constructing temporary barriers, shutting CBP agents via helicopter, conducting surveillance and providing logistical support to CBP.

American troops have conducted similar missions under deployments ordered by recent presidents including Barack Obama. However, those missions lasted less than one year.

Pentagon officials, some of whom have at times publicly questioned the necessity of the border deployment, have long maintained troops have little, if any, contact with migrants, rarely carry weapons and have only been authorized to use force for self-defense.

"DOD is providing support to the Department of Homeland Security and is not performing

any law enforcement functions," Army Lt. Col. Chris Mitchell said Friday. "Those functions are carried out by DHS law enforcement personnel."

DHS officials have praised the military deployments. Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost in June testified U.S. troops had aided her officers in apprehending some 100,000 migrants, primarily through their surveillance role, calling the Pentagon support invaluable.

Some 2,900 active-duty troops and another 2,200 National Guard members are deployed now in support of Trump's border mission, and Defense Secretary Mark Esper has authorized the deployment of up to 5,200 troops to continue through the end of fiscal year 2020.

Lee, the California representative who grew up along the border in El Paso, Texas, vowed to continue to fight against the deployment and Trump's other immigration policies.

"Make no mistake, Trump has sent these troops to the border for one reason and one reason alone — to terrorize immigrants and refugees," she said. "Trump is making it clear that immigrants are not welcome in his America. We cannot let that become our America."

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Unit in S. Korea remembers soldier, 20, killed in rollover

By MATTHEW KEELER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Members of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team gathered Friday to remember Spc. Nicholas C. Panipinto, a young soldier who had promised to share his outdoor adventures one day with all his friends.

Panipinto, 20, of Bradenton, Fla., died Nov. 6 at Camp Humphreys after the M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle he was driving rolled over during a road test, according to a report by the Army Combat Readiness Center. Panipinto was airlifted to a local hospital, where he later died. Four other soldiers were injured.

Not a seat inside the Warrior Chapel on Camp Humphreys, with room for 739, was empty, and soldiers of the rotational brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, lined the walls to bid Panipinto farewell.

"The loss of anyone so young is a tragedy," said Lt. Col. Edward Kennedy, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment. "The loss of a soldier that was so promising sent shockwaves through the company and the battalion."

"He aspired to become more than just a good soldier," Kennedy said during his tribute. "He did his absolute best every day defending our free nation, motivating others, sharing laughter and encouraging those he faced challenges of life with."

On Wednesday, American flags and crowds had lined the roads of his hometown in Manatee County, Fla., as a hearse bearing his remains passed by, according to the Bradenton Herald newspaper.

Panipinto enlisted on Jan. 9, 2018, and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantryman on April 27, 2018. From there, he joined Arrowhead Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

At Friday's memorial, a friend described Panipinto as a man of simple taste.

"He enjoyed hunting, fishing, guns, Toyota Tacomas and playing games in his free time," Spc. Luis Cortes told the crowd.

"He would share his life with pictures of all his hunting and fishing trips," Cortes said. "Being a kind friend, he often told us that one day we would all go to his house and fish and hunt together in his favorite places."

The death of his friend brings a heavy weight, Cortes said.

He urged his audience to truly love and care about the ones who mean the most to them, whether a co-worker, a teammate or a family member.

"Nicholas was my co-worker, my teammate and my brother, and I wish above anything else I could see him again," he said. "Pinto, if you can hear me, I miss you and I love you and I hope you are doing well."

After tributes from Cortes and the unit leaders, Sgt. 1st Class Martin Delafuente performed a last roll call, summoning Pa-



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Challenge coins placed by service members surround boots that belonged to Spc. Nicholas C. Panipinto. A memorial service for Panipinto was held inside the Warrior Chapel at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Friday.

nipinto three times to no avail. The gathering concluded with a rifle salute and the playing of taps.

As service members exited the chapel, each had the chance to render a final salute at a battlefield cross — an M-4 standing muzzle down, a helmet on the butt end and a pair of Panipinto's combat boots in front. Many, including Eighth Army commander Lt. Gen. Michael Bills, placed challenge coins next to his boots.

At his homecoming in Florida, Panipinto was saluted by local government officials, veterans, friends and family as a motorcade that included his hearse passed by. Law enforcement officers and the Patriot Guard Riders, a veterans' band of

motorcycle riders, escorted the body from Tampa International Airport, the Herald reported.

"I thought he was safe, absolutely, for sure. I never in a million years thought this could happen to us," his father, Anthony Panipinto, told TV station WTSP in Florida.

Panipinto's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and M4 Carbine Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge.

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MILITARY

Judge: Mass arrest of Marines unlawful

July action in front of battalion at Camp Pendleton ruled rights violation

By ANDREW DYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune

The July arrests of 16 Camp Pendleton Marines in front of their 800-person battalion was unlawful and a violation of their rights, a Marine Corps judge ruled Friday.

The ruling was handed down at the end of an all-day motions hearing that saw the battalion commander, a sergeant major and some Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents testify about the decision to conduct the mass arrest during a battalion formation on July 25.

On that day, 16 Marines were called to the front of their unit — 1st Battalion, 5th Marines — and they were accused of human smuggling and arrested by a swarm of 40 to 50 law enforcement agents.

Another eight Marines suspected of unspecified drug offenses were also taken out of the formation. Some of those eight were detained by battalion personnel and taken to the Camp Pendleton brig. Lt. Col. Eric Olson, the battalion commanding officer, testified.

The arrests were captured on video by the Marine Corps.

According to court testimony, the July arrests were the culmination of two separate investigations — one by NCIS into human smuggling and one by Marine Corps Criminal Investigation Division into an alleged drug ring.

Thirteen Marines were eventually charged in the smuggling case. The number charged in the drug case has not been disclosed.

Attorneys for one of the defendants, Lance Cpl. Jose Garcia, argued that the arrests amounted to “unlawful command influence” because of the effect the arrests had on those 800 battalion members who witnessed it.

Garcia was among those charged with unspecified drug offenses. The Marine Corps did not provide a charge sheet to reporters detailing those charges.

Unlawful command influence, often called the “mortal enemy of military justice,” occurs when a commander uses his position of authority to influence court proceedings. Commanders have authority over courts-martial and, therefore, are expected to remain impartial during the process.

However, testimony from witnesses, as well as a video recorded by the 1st Marine Division, showed Olson and battalion Sgt. Maj. Matthew Dorsey ordering



U.S. Marine Corps

This screenshot from a U.S. Marine Corps video shows the July 2019 mass arrest of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marines accused of participating in human smuggling or drug offenses.

NCIS agents to “arrest these Marines.” It also showed them making comments to the formation after the accused were removed.

Olson testified that he made general comments that the misconduct of Marines hurts the battalion’s “lethality” and that his primary focus was making sure his unit was ready to fight at a moment’s notice.

Some Marines in the formation that day also testified, saying that their commanders called the accused Marines a “cancer” on the battalion.

Olson, Dorsey and the lead NCIS agent on the case, Katelyn Thompson, all testified that the arrests were done in front of the formation to preserve evidence and ensure safety because some Marines were suspected of weapons offenses.

However, Judge Marine Col. Stephen Keane rejected that ar-

gument, saying that if there was a concern about weapons being involved, then inviting 800 Marines to witness the arrests did not suggest safety.

Public affairs officers from the 1st Marine Division also testified about comments they made to the news media after the July arrests and about the decision to capture the arrests on video.

Division communications director Maj. Kendra Motz testified that the decision to film the arrests was an effort to avoid conflicting videos of the event coming out, causing confusion.

She cited as an example the controversy that arose over videos that some said showed Covington Catholic High School students harassing a Native American man in Washington in January, while others said the videos showed the kids being harassed.

Motz also testified that she had

not been truthful with reporters at the time about the arrest, telling an ABC reporter there were no photos or videos taken.

She also testified that she told a Task & Purpose reporter that Dorsey did not hold a red awards folder when he called out the names of the accused, though that was contrary to what witnesses testified and what the Marine Corps’ video shows.

Keane told prosecutors they have until this week to find a way to remedy what he said was actual and apparent unlawful command influence, or it could be devastating to their case against Garcia, whose attorneys asked that charges be dismissed.

“You have an uphill battle here,” Keane told the prosecutors. “The overarching concern of mine is that Garcia has a fair trial. If not, that leaves the court with one option.”

Marine apologizes for drunken rampage that hurt 3 in Tokyo

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A Marine lance corporal who attacked three Japanese citizens while drunk and disoriented in Tokyo’s Shinjuku ward in May testified Thursday that he takes “full responsibility” for his actions.

Kahsai Tyree Hill, 21, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment of Camp Lejeune, N.C., admitted in court Thursday to choking a woman until she fainted and striking a taxi driver and a bystander the morning of May 25.

Hill is charged with two counts of bodily injury to the bystander and the woman. He pleaded guilty in July to a bodily injury charge related to the taxi driver.

Defense attorneys in Tokyo District Court on Thursday said Hill and his family have paid his victims about \$16,500 in compensation.

Hill gave his account of the attacks after a psychologist testified that the behavior was caused by “his immaturity” and “inability to control his level of intoxication.” The psychologist also said Hill could suffer from a dissociative disorder, but a diagnosis

would require further testing.

Dissociative disorders are characterized by “a disconnection between thoughts, identity, consciousness and memory,” according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Symptoms include out-of-body experiences, detachment from reality and anxiety.

Hill, who said he had his first drink on his 21st birthday six months before the incident, testified that he and other Marines from Camp Fuji’s security team were in Tokyo the night of May 24 to celebrate Memorial Day. He said he had approximately 15 alcoholic drinks that night — “more than I ever drank in my life.”

After exploring bars in Golden Gai — a bar area in Shinjuku that’s popular with tourists — Hill and his friends went to a fast-food restaurant around midnight before going to bed. Hill testified that at the restaurant he decided to walk around outside to explore.

Then, he said, he got lost.

‘Terrified’

Hill remembered having another drink with a stranger in the area before passing out. He woke up hours later in an alley and

panicked because “the sun’s coming up and I have no clue where I am,” he testified.

The Marine said he felt “terrified” and confused, separated from his friends in a strange city.

“My heart was racing. I shouted for help,” Hill said. “People ignored me, which made me think I was dreaming. I started to act recklessly because of



Hill

that.” That’s when he saw someone, he would later learn was a taxi driver offering him a ride.

Hill said he did not know the man was a cab driver when he got in the front seat. That’s why Hill did not pay the approximately \$8 fare when the driver let him out of the car, he said.

“The man started yelling at me, something I didn’t understand,” Hill testified. “I felt in danger and felt I needed to protect myself.”

Hill said he then hit the driver and ran away.

Hill later struck another man

who stopped to help him find his hotel, but the Marine said he could not remember that incident or why he hit him.

“I’ve been trying for months to try to remember,” Hill said. “I know something happened; I take responsibility for it.”

He said he remembered the third attack, for which police recommended an attempted murder charge but prosecutors indicted him on the lesser charge of bodily injury.

In his panic, he said he thought a nearby woman was his sister and hugged her from behind. Unsteady in his drunken stupor, Hill said, he lost his balance and tightened his grip before she “fell away.”

“It was the most terrified I’d ever been in my entire life,” Hill said. “Everything was spinning around.” He said he later learned he had choked the woman so tight that she fainted, fracturing her chin as she hit the ground.

“People were yelling at me, and I walked away crying,” Hill testified.

Hill left and was later arrested. As police approached him, Hill grabbed an officer by the collar and asked him to “please help me” before passing out, he testified.

‘Truly sorry’

Speaking to the judge through a translator, Hill said he was “truly sorry” for the incident and will seek counseling to ensure it doesn’t happen again.

“My very job is to protect people, and I feel I have disrespected my own name,” he said, choking up. “Violence is never the answer, no matter what, and I have learned a huge lesson from this.”

The taxi driver and the woman he attacked wrote letters to the court stating they do not desire criminal punishment for Hill, his lawyer said. The second man he struck did not write such a letter.

Prosecutors said the taxi driver initially called for “severe punishment” against Hill but later changed his mind.

The judge did not decide the case Thursday, instead setting a new court date for Dec. 6.

Hill said he will face disciplinary action from the Marine Corps after the case is decided. He will be discharged, he said, potentially on bad conduct.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report. doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

MILITARY

GAO: Navy lacks means to evaluate new training

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Senior Navy officials told a government watchdog agency it could take 16 years or more to know if recent training reforms will lead to greater ship-driving proficiency across the surface fleet.

That is not, however, an acceptable timeline for assessing success, though Government Accountability Office said in a report released Thursday. The report recommends the Navy take a series of steps to fully assess in the near term whether changes in training are effective and that, as a result, ships are being operated more safely at sea.

The Navy has instituted numerous changes for surface warfare officer ship-driving training in the wake of two deadly crashes in 2017.

On June 17 of that year, the USS Fitzgerald, a destroyer, rammed into a merchant vessel near the coast of Japan, killing seven sailors and injuring three more.

Two months later, on Aug. 21, another destroyer, the USS John S. McCain, collided with an oil tanker near Singapore. Ten sail-

ors lost their lives in that crash, with five others injured.

The ships — both home-ported at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan — sustained hundreds of millions of dollars in damage.

Earlier in 2017, two Navy cruisers were damaged in separate incidents, one by running aground near Japan, the other by colliding with a fishing vessel in international waters.

The Navy conducted a comprehensive review of its surface fleet as a result of the fatal collisions and began instituting policy changes as early as fall 2017.

The Navy plans to triple the number of ship-driving training hours for surface warfare officers by 2021, the GAO report said.

That plan hinges on the completion of two new simulator-based training facilities, with the first in San Diego slated to be complete in 2021 and the second in Norfolk, Va., to be operational in January 2023, the report said.

"Overall, the Navy plans to invest more than \$467 million to develop new ship-driving training courses, build simulator facilities and deliver the training through fiscal year 2025," the report said.

During the first three months of 2018, experts from the Navy Surface Warfare Officer School Command conducted ship-driving proficiency "spot checks" of 104 surface warfare officers who had recently qualified as officers of the deck during their first at-sea assignment, the GAO report said.

The experts found "concerns" in ship-driving competency in more than 80 percent of those officers. Another 29 officers found to have "significant competency problems" were likely not qualified to be officers of the deck because "they violated fundamental ship-driving rules, among other issues," the report said.

The Navy developed standards for conducting spot checks on ship-driving competency, but it plans to end them in 2021, the report said.

Instead, the Navy's oversight will center on a series of added checks throughout the careers of surface warfare officers to ensure they maintain their skills.

"Senior Navy officials stated that it could take 16 years or more to know if the planned changes to [surface warfare officers] train-

ing were effective in increasing Commanding Officer ship-driving proficiency across the fleet and stated that they intend to closely monitor the implementation of changes to the training," the report said.

"These checks are steps in the right direction but may not provide adequate assessment mechanisms in the near term and might lead to missed opportunities going forward," the report said. "For example, the Navy is expanding its ship-driving training but is not planning to collect fleetwide feedback on classroom, simulator and at-sea training received."

The GAO found the Navy had not provided commanding officers with standard criteria for qualifying those officers to drive ships.

"Navy officials emphasized the importance of allowing ship Commanding Officers to make their own determination of an officer's preparedness to drive a ship, due to their knowledge of the ship's operating conditions," the report said.

The Navy had also not developed a plan for analyzing and

using information chronicled by officers in the Surface Warfare Mariner Skills Logbook, the report said. The Navy in September 2018 began requiring officers to enter, in longhand, their ship-driving and related experiences in these logbooks.

"Navy officials stated that over time, as they gather these data, they intend to examine the link between ship-driving proficiency and [surface warfare officers] experience," the report said. "However, officials did not have any specific, measurable plans to analyze and use these data or to assess the completeness of these data."

The GAO offered four recommendations, including collecting and evaluating fleetwide feedback, conducting ship-driving assessments, establishing standard criteria for piloting and employing logbook information in a systematic and useful way.

The Navy concurred with the recommendations, the report said.

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Navy operations specialists first to get more simulators

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is overhauling training school curriculums for new sailors by incorporating more simulator scenarios to practice job skills as the service looks to boost lab training standards that contributed to two deadly ship collisions in 2017, Navy officials said.

The simulators are part of the Navy's push to modernize training in the classroom under their Ready Relevant Learning initiative, which is the "right training at the right time in the right way," said Capt. Dave Stoner, the commander of the Center for Surface Combat Systems Unit at Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois.

The Navy's initial training school, or "A" school, for sailors who are operations specialists is the first of the schools to have its curriculum modernized with the inclusion of more time with simulators. Operations specialists have duties that involve navigation, lookout and shipboard warfare.

The Navy is working toward similar modernizing of the initial curriculums of other Navy jobs, Stoner said.

Some students at the "A" school said they related more to the simulator training for learning the skills required for their jobs.

The experience is "more hands on instead of reading out of a book," Seaman Apprentice Raychelle Hart, an operations specialist, said about using the simulators.

Two labs with simulated scenarios at the school focus on watch duties and navigation. Students can don headgear and sit at computer screen panels similar to what they would experience with the job on a ship.

The Voyage Management System lab for coastal navigation cost \$100,000, and the Ship Self-Defense System lab for training on defending a ship from threats cost \$750,000,

according to Cmdr. James Stockman, a spokesman with Naval Education and Training Command.

Training for sailors has been scrutinized in the past few years after the USS John S. McCain and USS Fitzgerald were involved in separate deadly collisions in the Pacific in 2017. After the incidents, the Navy found problems serviceside with not having enough sailors and cutting corners on training in order for them to keep up with their work.

Students are shown a video about the McCain and Fitzgerald collisions at the beginning of their training to emphasize that "lives are at risk," said Dean McCarty, director for training at the Center for Surface Combat Systems. "So it provides them that motivation that hook that they need to pay attention in class and participate."

One simulator that students train on, called "Rules of the Road," focuses on spotting objects they could encounter at sea while standing on the side of their ship on watch duty, such as trawlers or tug boats. They don headsets like they would on the ship to hear the scenario shown on a large screen in the classroom and they are given multiple-choice questions to answer and report back what they see to the combat information center on the ship. The scenarios in the program are what sailors will face every day, Stoner said.

The Voyage Management System lab trains students on the same computer software they would use on a ship to safely navigate the vessel. Students take an 80-hour course and leave certified on the system — unlike before, when they were introduced to the system for only about five hours with little hands-on experience, McCarty said.

The school can go to the simulator contractor to get additional scenarios built,



BRIAN WALSH/U.S. Navy

Center for Surface Combat Systems Unit Great Lakes Operations Specialist "A" School students study in the Voyage Management System lab last week.

McCarty said, and they are working on the ability in the future to have more control in building scenarios themselves in the classroom.

Seaman Joshua Orozco found the simulators provided them examples of the real-world situations that they will encounter at sea.

"There's only so much that a book and a picture can convey. Moving graphics and 3D images of scenarios that we might run into is a lot more helpful," he said.

In the future, the Navy plans to incorporate virtual reality goggles for students to wear to make the learning experience more immersive. Students are given the opportunity to go through the scenarios repeatedly, even outside of normal class hours, to hone the skills that they are incorporating into muscle memory, McCarty said.

Prior to the update to the operation specialist curriculum, instructors had been removed from the front of classrooms, and students were learning skills through a

knowledge-based approach with computer-based training and they were just clicking through the lessons, he said.

The pivot toward a performance-based system brought back the instructors and increased the amount of time that students are working on tasks in the classes from 30% to 70%, McCarty said.

Stoner said it's too early to tell whether sailors are retaining the information better than before due to the simulator training. According to McCarty, the pool of graduates from the new curriculum is too small and new to the fleet for them to receive enough feedback yet from commands. Only 150 have gone through the curriculum since it launched as a pilot program in May, with the first official course having started in September.

So far, McCarty said they have found there are fewer students who have to come in for additional mandatory study on the curriculum, and there are more students passing the course.

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MILITARY

Military animals awarded medals for their service

5 dogs, 2 pigeons and a horse are honored with the Medal of Bravery

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Bass, a Belgian Malinois, served more than six years in Marine Corps special operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. During his time in Iraq, Bass conducted more than 350 explosive detections with his handler, Staff Sgt. Alex Schnell.

On Thursday, Bass was awarded the Medal of Bravery on Capitol Hill for his work with the Marines. The award, the first of its kind, was issued by Angels Without Wings, a nonprofit aiming to formally acknowledge valor of working animals at home and abroad. The Medal of Bravery was inspired by the Dickin Medal, a British award introduced in WWII to honor brave animals who served in combat.

The efforts of dogs in the military has received greater attention in recent weeks since Conan, another Belgian Malinois, helped hunt down Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi — the most wanted terrorist in the world. But Bass and Conan are two of many military working dogs who sniff out bombs, track down bad guys and assist troops on a wide range of missions overseas. Dogs and other animals have always supported troops in combat.

Bass was joined Thursday by Bucca, a dog that served with the New York City Fire Department. Bucca also received the Medal of Bravery, and six posthumous medals were awarded to Cher Ami, a pigeon (WWI); Chips, a

dog, and GI Joe, a pigeon (WWII); Sgt. Reckless, a horse (Korean War); Stormy, a dog (Vietnam War); and Lucca, a dog (Iraq and Afghanistan wars).

In Somalia, Bass was involved in at least a dozen operations for high-value targets. Special operations units relied heavily on Bass to detect explosives. In Afghanistan, Bass

‘His nose isn’t just for finding stuff; it’s for finding personnel. It’s an awesome capability.’
Staff Sgt. Alex Schnell
Bass’ handler

was used to conduct 34 raids for high-profile individuals and led troops during dangerous building clearings. Through Bass’ four deployments across three countries, there were no Marine fatalities on his missions, according to the dog’s award citation.

When special operators clear a building, the dog will be the first one through the door to attack and make it safer for troops to enter quickly to kill or detain enemies.

“The dog is often used like a flashbang,” Schnell said. “The dog will enter first because a lot of times it’ll distract the enemy. Especially if it’s dark, it’s hard for them (the enemy) to pick up on the dog. It gives you those seconds that are really valuable in that dangerous situation.”



Staff Sgt. Alex Schnell

Left: Staff Sgt. Alex Schnell patrols with Bass in Somalia. Right: Schnell kneels next to Bass after the dog was awarded the Medal of Bravery on Thursday for valor in combat.

Beyond attacking terrorists, Bass has also routed out enemy fighters from hiding spots.

“His nose isn’t just for finding stuff (explosives, drugs); it’s for finding personnel,” Schnell said. “They (enemies) have hiding holes and tunnels in these buildings. It’s an awesome capability.”

Bass retired from active duty in October and was adopted by Schnell. However, bringing a military working dog home isn’t for everyone, and Belgian Malinois is a tough, high-energy breed that Schnell doesn’t recommend as a family pet.

“They are definitely not chihuahuas,” he said. “They are not for your average homeowners, especially for those that don’t know anything about dog training.”

“If you’re going to buy one of these animals, definitely re-



Steve Bynon/Stars and Stripes

search fully trained ones and that you know a bit about dog training yourself, or these dogs will control your whole life and possibly lead you to euthanize or get rid of them. That isn’t good for anyone or the dog.”

Here are some of the efforts of the military animals who received awards other than dogs:

■ During World War I, hundreds of American troops were trapped behind enemy lines without food or ammunition and were beginning to receive friendly fire from artillery units that didn’t know their location. A pigeon named Cher Ami was able to carry a message to stop the artillery despite being shot by German troops. The bird was blinded in one eye and lost a leg.

■ During World War II, another pigeon known as GI Joe carried

a message that prevented a potentially devastating friendly fire tragedy. Allied forces planned a bombing campaign on an Italian town. However, it was occupied by British troops. GI Joe flew 20 miles in about 20 minutes to relay the message; friendly forces occupied the town just before bombing planes took off.

■ Staff Sgt. Reckless, a pack horse for Marines during the Korean War, quickly became as well-treated as the troops. She roamed freely around camp and would even sleep in tents with Marines on cold nights. In one battle, the horse made 51 solo trips, covering more than 30 miles, to resupply front-line units with ammunition. Reckless was wounded twice by shrapnel.

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‘Black Hawk Down’ vet James McMahon dies

By JEFF KOLKEY

Rockford (Ill.) Register Star

ROCKFORD, Ill. — Delta Force sniper Sgt. 1st Class James P. McMahon’s face was so badly battered and cut, “he looked like he was wearing a fright mask” as he stood atop a downed Black Hawk helicopter and pulled free the body of a fellow soldier from the wreckage.

That’s the first description of McMahon in the book by journalist Mark Bowden, called “Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War.” It is a detailed account of the horrific Battle of the Black Sea fought in the streets of Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993. It claimed the lives of 18 elite American soldiers.

Among the survivors was McMahon, a 1972 Durand High School graduate who served in the U.S. Army for nearly three

decades.

Friends and family along with fellow soldiers and veterans on Saturday laid McMahon to rest at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Durand. He died Nov. 5 at age 64, according to his obituary, which did not reference a cause of death.

A McCorkle Funeral Home director said family members did not wish to comment.

The obituary says that McMahon served 16 years in the U.S. Army’s 75th Ranger Regiment and then later as a member of the elite Delta Force. He retired in 2002 with the rank of sergeant-major.

He went on to work as a defense contractor overseas and in the U.S. Since 2013, he worked as a special operations instructor at Fort Bragg, N.C.

McMahon was aboard one of two Black Hawk helicopters

brought down by rocket-propelled grenades during Operation Gothic Serpent. What began as a humanitarian mission to feed the hungry being starved by Somali warlords in Africa became a combat operation after U.S. soldiers were attacked in August 1993 by forces directed by one of the warlords, Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid, according to “Black Hawk Down” and other sources.

McMahon was one of 99 elite soldiers who were part of Task Force Ranger, consisting of Rangers, Delta Force and others, sent to capture lieutenants of Aidid’s Habr Gidr militia.

They were ambushed and found themselves “surrounded and trapped in an ancient African city fighting for their lives,” Bowden wrote.

A mission that was supposed to last an hour turned into a ferocious 15-hour battle for survival

in a hostile city.

In addition to the soldiers who were killed, 73 were wounded, a pilot was captured and held captive for 11 days and the U.S. was horrified by television images of angry mobs abusing the bodies of American soldiers.

McMahon, who continued to fight until reinforcements arrived, was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for valor, according to his obituary.

“The Battle of the Black Sea was perceived outside the special operations community as a failure. It was not, at least in strictly military terms,” Bowden wrote in the epilogue of his book.

“It was a complex, difficult and dangerous assignment, and despite terrible setbacks and losses, and against overwhelming odds, the mission was accomplished.”

USS Iwo Jima fire leaves 2 sailors hurt

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Two sailors suffered minor injuries after a Navy ship caught on fire for several hours at Naval Station Mayport overnight.

The USS Iwo Jima reported a fire in a cargo hold at 11:45 p.m. Thursday.

The ship’s crew, sailors from USS The Sullivans, federal fire-fighters and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department responded and extinguished the fire at 4:35 a.m. Friday.

The Navy is investigating the cause of the fire and determining the extent of the damage.

The two Iwo Jima sailors reported minor injuries, heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation, and were treated at the scene.

The Iwo Jima was completing a maintenance availability and did not have any weapons aboard.

From The Florida Times-Union

NATION

Aide's testimony ties Trump to delay of Ukraine funding

BY LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK
AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gordon Sondland, President Donald Trump's emissary to the European Union, had a message when he met with a top Ukrainian official. Sondland said vital U.S. military assistance to Ukraine might be freed up if the country's top prosecutor "would go to the mic and announce that he was opening the Burisma investigation," a U.S. official told lawmakers. Burisma is the gas company in Ukraine for which Democrat Joe Biden's son, Hunter, served on the board.

Sondland relayed the exchange moments later to Tim Morrison, then a National Security Council aide. In his private testimony to impeachment investigators, Morrison recounted that Sondland also told him he was discussing the Ukraine matters directly with Trump.

Morrison's testimony ties Trump more closely to the central charge from Democrats pursuing impeachment: that Trump held up U.S. military aid to Ukraine in exchange for investigations into Democrats and Biden's family. Morrison's testimony also contradicts much of what Sondland told congressional investigators during his own closed-door deposition, which the ambassador later amended.

Both Morrison and Sondland

are scheduled to testify publicly this week as part of the historic, high-stakes impeachment proceedings into the nation's 45th president.

Democrats charge that Trump abused his office for personal political gain, while the president and his allies argue that the process is politically motivated and that nothing in the testimony so far meets the bar for impeachment.

Transcripts from the closed-door testimony from Morrison, a longtime Republican defense hawk in Washington, and Jennifer Williams, a special adviser to Vice President Mike Pence on Russia and Europe, were released Saturday as investigators accelerated and deepened the probe. They provided another window into the alarm within the government over Ukraine pressure.

Immediately after the exchange with Sondland during an international gathering in Warsaw, Morrison called his boss, John Bolton, then Trump's national security adviser.

"Stay out of it," Bolton told him. "Brief the lawyers."

For Morrison, Burisma was a catch-all for a "bucket" of investigations of Democrats and the family of Joe Biden — that he wanted to "stay away from."

They had nothing to do with "the proper policy process that I was involved in on Ukraine," he testified.

Morrison said Sondland and Trump had spoken approximately five times between July 15 and

Sept. 11 — the weeks that \$391 million in U.S. assistance was withheld from Ukraine before it was released.

While some, including Trump himself, have begun to question Sondland's knowledge of events, Morrison told House investigators the ambassador "related to me he was acting — he was discussing these matters with the president."

Pressed by Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the Intelligence Committee, which is leading the probe, as to whether Sondland had actually spoken to the president, Morrison said he had verified it each time.

Pence, so far, has been a more unseen figure in the impeachment inquiry, but testimony from Williams raised fresh questions about what Pence knew about Trump's actions toward Ukraine.

Pence was also at the Warsaw gathering.

For the new government of Ukraine, situated between NATO allies and Russia, the security aid Congress had already approved was a lifeline to the West.

Williams was among the staffers in the White House Situation Room who listened and took notes during Trump's July 25 call when he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for "a favor." A whistleblower's complaint about that call helped spark the House impeachment investigation.

Williams testified that Trump's discussion on the call of specific investigations struck her as "un-

usual and inappropriate" and seemed to point to "other motivations" for holding up the military aid.

After the call, Williams told investigators, she put the White House's rough transcript into the vice president's daily briefing book.

"I just don't know if he read it," she said.

Williams corroborated the testimony of a previous witness, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, an NSC aide on the call, who said the White House dropped the word "Burisma" from the transcript. She said in an addendum to her testimony that Zelenskyy had mentioned the word "Burisma" in the call.

Vindman and Williams are scheduled to testify together during a public impeachment hearing Tuesday.

Morrison, throughout his account, largely confirmed testimony from current and former officials about what has been de-

scribed as a shadow diplomacy being run by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, often at odds with U.S. national security interests.

A few days after the Warsaw meeting, Sondland was on the phone Sept. 7 telling Morrison he had just gotten off a call with the president.

Morrison said Sondland related that Trump assured him there were no strings being attached to the military aid for Ukraine.

"The president told him there was no quid pro quo, but President Zelenskyy must announce the opening of the investigations and he should want to do it," Morrison testified.

Morrison had what he called a "sinking feeling" that the aid may not ultimately be released. About that time, three congressional inquiries said they were opening inquiries into efforts by Trump and Giuliani to investigate the Bidens.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Tim Morrison, the top Russia official on President Trump's National Security Council, returns to Capitol Hill last week. Transcripts of Morrison's private testimony to impeachment investigators were released Saturday.

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Russia providing mood music for impeachment drama

BY AAMER MADHANI
AND ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For all the talk about Ukraine in the House impeachment inquiry, there's a character standing just off-stage with a dominant role in this tale of international intrigue: Russia.

As has so often been the case since President Donald Trump took office, Moscow provides the mood music for the unfolding political drama.

"With you, Mr. President, all roads lead to Putin," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared recently, and not for the first time.

The impeachment investigation is centered on allegations that Trump tried to pressure Ukrainian new leader over the summer to dig up dirt on Trump political rival Joe Biden, holding up U.S. military aid to the Eastern European nation as leverage.

In her testimony before the House impeachment panel last week, diplomat Marie Yovanovitch suggested that the president's actions played into the hands of Vladimir Putin, whose government has backed separatists in a 5-year-old war in eastern Ukraine.

Yovanovitch, a 33-year veteran of the State Department known for fighting corruption in Ukraine and elsewhere, was ousted from her position as ambassador to

Ukraine after Trump and his allies began attacking her and claimed she was bad-mouthing the president.

Her ouster, she and several Democratic lawmakers argued, ultimately benefitted Putin.

"It's clear that the Trump administration foreign policy is chaotic and incoherent with one exception: Many of his actions benefit Russia,"

Rep. Ted Lieu
D-Calif.

After two days of public testimony and the release of thousands of pages of transcripts from witnesses who've met with investigators behind closed doors, Democrats and Republican lawmakers seem further entrenched in their partisan

corners about whether the president abused his powers.

Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to do him "a favor" and investigate Biden and his son, Hunter's, business dealings in Ukraine. At the same time, Ukraine was awaiting nearly \$400 million in U.S. military aid.

While Democrats say the request to investigate the Bidens represented a quid pro quo, Trump insists he was within his rights to ask the country to look into corruption. Democrats, trying to make their accusations more understandable, have now settled on framing the president's actions as a matter of bribery, which, as Pelosi noted, is mentioned in the Constitution.

Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Trump has dismissed the impeachment proceedings as a "joke" that deny him and Republican lawmakers due process.

A key ally on Capitol Hill, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., casts the impeachment inquiry as a continuation of the Democrats' "spectacular implosion of their Russia hoax."

"In the blink of an eye, we're asked to

simply forget about Democrats on this committee falsely claiming they had more than circumstantial evidence of collusion between President Trump and Russians," Nunes said.

Democrats, for their part, are trying to brighten the spotlight on their theory that Trump is doing the bidding of Putin.

Russia, a historic adversary of the United States, has too often emerged as a benefactor of Trump's actions, says Rep. Ted Lieu, a California Democrat.

In his July call with Zelenskyy, Trump pushed discredited information that hackers in Ukraine — rather than Russia — interfered in the 2016 elections.

Last month, Trump abruptly moved U.S. Special Forces from northern Syria at Turkey's urging and as result created a security vacuum for Russia to fill.

Trump has also repeatedly disparaged and even suggested withdrawing from NATO, the military alliance that has served as a deterrent to Soviet and Russian aggression since it was formed after World War II.

"It's clear that the Trump administration foreign policy is chaotic and incoherent with one exception: Many of his actions benefit Russia," Lieu said.

Both in open hearings and closed-door testimony, Democrats have sought to highlight concerns that Trump's foreign policy frequently benefits Russia.

NATION

Conservative La. reelects Edwards, a Dem governor

By MELINDA DESLATE
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Deep in the heart of the conservative South, Louisiana's voters reelected Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards to a second term, shocking Republicans who had hoped to reclaim the seat on the strength of President Donald Trump's popularity.

With his focus on bipartisan, state-specific issues, the moderate Edwards cobbled together enough cross-party support Saturday to defeat Republican businessman Eddie Rispone, getting about 51% of the vote.

Trump fought to return the seat to the GOP, but his intense interest in the race not only motivated conservative Republicans but also powered a surge in anti-Trump and black voter turnout that helped boost Edwards over the finish line.

Coming after a defeat in the Kentucky governor's race and sizable losses in Virginia's legislative races, the Louisiana result seems certain to rattle Republicans heading into the 2020 presidential election. Trump made three trips to Louisiana to rally against Edwards and fashioned the runoff election between Edwards and Rispone into a test of his own popularity and political prowess.

In a victory rally of his own late Saturday, Edwards thanked supporters who danced, sang and cheered in celebration, while he declared, "How sweet it is!"

He added, "And as for the president, God bless his heart" — a phrase often used by genteel Southerners to politely deprecate someone.

"Tonight the people of Louisiana have chosen to chart their

own path," Edwards said.

As he conceded the race, Rispone called on supporters to give a round of applause for Trump, saying: "That man loves America and he loves Louisiana."

Democrats who argue that nominating a moderate presidential candidate is the best approach to beat Trump are certain say Louisiana's race bolsters their case.

Still, while Rispone's loss raises questions about the strength of Trump's coattails, its relevance to his reelection chances are less clear. Louisiana is expected to easily back Trump next year, and Edwards' views are, in many ways, out of step with his own party.

A West Point graduate and former Army Ranger, Edwards opposes most gun restrictions, signed one of the nation's strictest abortion bans and dismissed the impeachment effort as a distraction.

Meanwhile, Rispone, 70, wasn't among the top-tier candidates Republican leaders hoped would challenge Edwards. He had ties to the unpopular former Gov. Bobby Jindal, started with little name recognition and offered few details about his agenda.

Edwards, 53, also proved to be a formidable candidate, with a record of achievements.

Working with the majority-Republican Legislature, Edwards stabilized state finances with a package of tax increases, ending the deficit-riddled years of Jindal. New money paid for investments in public colleges and the first state-wide teacher raise in a decade.

Edwards expanded Louisiana's Medicaid program, lowering the



MATTHEW HINTON/AP

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards arrives to address supporters at his election night watch party in Baton Rouge, La., on Saturday.

state's uninsured rate below the national average. A bipartisan criminal sentencing law rewrite he championed ended Louisiana's tenure as the nation's top jailer.

Rispone, the owner of a Baton Rouge industrial contracting company, hitched his entire candidacy to Trump, introducing himself to voters in ads that focused on support for the president in a state Trump won by 20 percentage points. Rispone said he was like Trump, describing himself as a "conservative outsider" whose business acumen would help solve the state's problems.

The president's repeated visits appeared to drive turnout for both candidates.

Tour guide Andrea Hartman, 40, cast her ballot for Edwards in New Orleans.

"I do not agree with what Rispone advocates," she said. "I also don't want Trump coming here and telling me who to vote for."

Rispone poured more than \$12 million of his own money into the race. But he had trouble drawing some of the primary vote that went to Republican U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, after harshly attacking Abraham in ads as he sought to reach the runoff.

He also avoided many traditional public events attended by Louisiana gubernatorial candidates and sidestepped questions about his plans. He promised tax cuts without saying where he'd shrink spending, and pledged a constitutional convention without detailing what he wanted to rewrite.

Poll finds Buttigieg pushes to the front in Iowa

By ANNIE LINSKEY,
CHELSEA JANES
AND SCOTT CLEMENT
The Washington Post

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — A new poll of Iowa voters released Saturday night suggests a disruption in the Democratic primary contest in the first voting state, with South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg surging to the front of the crowded pack.

The survey showed Buttigieg with support from 25% of likely caucusgoers, followed by essentially a three-way tie for second place between Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; and former vice president Joe Biden, who all have about 15% support. None of the other candidates are in double digits.

The poll differs from other recent Iowa polls, which showed Buttigieg, Biden, Warren and Sanders knotted closely together. The survey, released by CNN, the Des Moines Register and MediaCom, was of 500 likely Democratic caucusgoers and has a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points.

"That's extremely encouraging, obviously," said Buttigieg, speaking to reporters after the poll came out at the California Democrats Convention in Long Beach. "We have felt a lot of momentum on the ground."

Buttigieg said that he has seen more enthusiasm for his candidacy in the state since Labor Day and credited his strong performances in the debates and big state events with boosting his campaign.

Another bright spot in the numbers for Buttigieg is that 63% of likely caucusgoers think his views are about right, the highest of the four candidates tested. Only 7% say his views are too liberal, while 13% feel they're too conservative.

White House: Trump undergoes an exam at Walter Reed

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — President Donald Trump spent more than two hours at Walter Reed National Medical Center on Saturday for what the White House said were medical tests as part of his annual physical.

The appointment wasn't on Trump's weekend public schedule, and his last physical was in February. Press secretary Stephanie Grisham said the 73-year-old president was "anticipating a very busy 2020" and wanted to take advantage of "a free weekend" in Washington to begin portions of his routine checkup.

She did not specify which tests he'd received or explain why the visit had not been disclosed in advance. Trump's 2018 and 2019 physicals were both announced ahead of time and appeared on his public schedule.

Grisham said after the visit that the president had "a quick exam and labs" and assured he remains in good health.

"The President remains healthy and energetic without complaints, as demonstrated by his repeated vigorous rally performances in front of thousands of Americans several times a week," she said.

Trump also spent time at the hospital meeting with the family

of a special forces soldier injured in Afghanistan. And he visited with medical staff "to share his thanks for all the outstanding care they provide to our Wounded Warriors and wish them an early happy Thanksgiving," Grisham said.

It was the president's ninth visit to the hospital since taking office.

Walter Reed spokeswoman Sandy Dean said the hospital does not comment on patients who receive care at the facility and referred questions to the White House.

Trump's last checkup in February 2019 showed he had gained weight in office. At 243 pounds

and 6 feet, 3 inches tall, he passed the official threshold for being considered obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30.4.

That checkup, which was supervised by Dr. Sean P. Conley, his physician, took more than four hours and involved a panel of 11 specialists.

"I am happy to announce the President of the United States is in very good health and I anticipate he will remain so for the duration of his Presidency, and beyond," Conley wrote afterward.

Test results were released six days later, showing that Trump weighed 243 pounds — up seven pounds from September 2016, before he became president.

A Body Mass Index rating of 30 is the level at which doctors consider someone obese under the commonly used formula. About 40% of Americans are obese, raising the risk for heart disease, diabetes, stroke and some forms of cancer.

Trump doesn't drink alcohol or smoke but is known to enjoy fast food, steaks and desserts. His primary form of exercise is golf.

Saturday's test came as House investigators on Capitol Hill were interviewing a White House budget official as part of the impeachment inquiry.

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong.

NATION

Lawsuit may force Remington to open its marketing books

Associated Press

A recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court has upended a long-standing legal roadblock that has given the gun industry far-reaching immunity from lawsuits in the aftermath of mass killings.

The court last week allowed families of victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre to sue the maker of the AR-15 used in the attack. The case against Remington will now proceed in the Connecticut courts.

Remington is widely expected to win the case, but critics of the gun industry are eyeing what they see as a significant outcome even in the face of defeat: getting the gunmaker to open its books about how it markets firearms.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs are certain to request that Remington turn over volumes of documents as part of the discovery phase, providing a rare window into the inner workings of how

a major gun manufacturer markets its weapons. Those materials might include company emails, memos, business plans and corporate strategies, or anything that might suggest the company purposely marketed the firearm in a way that may have compelled the shooter to use the weapon to carry out the slaughter.

The plaintiffs also believe the ruling will put gun companies on notice about how they conduct business knowing they could wind up in the courts.

"If the industry wakes up and understands their conduct behind closed doors is not protected, then the industry itself ... will take steps to try to help the massive problem we have instead of doing nothing and sit by and cash the checks," said Joshua Koskoff, the Connecticut attorney who represents a survivor and relatives of nine victims who died at the Newtown, Conn., school on Dec. 14, 2012.



KEITH SRACOCIC/AP

The Remington name is etched on a model 870 shotgun. A Supreme Court ruling allowing a lawsuit against the gun-maker to continue will force the company to make relevant documents public.

The case hinges on Connecticut state consumer law that challenges how the firearm used by Adam Lanza, the Newtown shooter — a Bushmaster XM15-E2S rifle — was marketed, with plaintiffs alleging Remington purposely used advertisements that targeted younger, at-risk males. One of Remington's ads features the rifle against a plain backdrop and the phrase: "Consider Your Man Card Reissued."

Remington did not respond to requests for comment after the U.S. Supreme Court denied its efforts to quash the lawsuit.

Larry Keane, senior vice president and legal counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which represents gunmakers, said he anticipates Remington will ultimately prevail.

Anxiety up in Fla. town after judge's ruling

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN

Associated Press

MACCLENNY, Fla. — Anxieties multiplied quickly across Baker County, a mostly rural community of 28,000 in northern Florida, when news spread that a 15-year-old had planned a massacre at the county's only high school.

"MAKE SURE THE TEACHERS ARE DEAD," he ranted in a notebook. "Then rinse repeat."

When the sophomore shared his six-page "School Shooting Plan" with a classmate in early September, it set in motion what authorities called a textbook response to averting another Parkland, Fla., school shooting, which took the lives of 14 students and three school staffers last year.

Within minutes, the student was in custody. By most accounts, parents felt reassured by the swift action of school officials and law enforcement.

But unease resurfaced last

month when a judge dismissed second-degree felony charges against the boy and released him back into the community west of Jacksonville. Thursday's shooting at a California high school — which left three students dead, including the 16-year-old gunman — only deepened their worries.

In a place where churches outnumber gas stations and traffic lights, some residents expressed compassion for the teenager but reserved less mercy for the judge, who they say failed their community and the boy she spared.

"We have a sense of safety built into this community. We trust each other, and when I drop my kids off at school, I have a feeling they're going to be safe," said Macclenny resident Tracy Lamb, whose 15-year-old daughter attended the high school along with about 1,400 other students.

"Our judicial system is dropping the ball. It's failed us, and the system has failed him. I want this

child to receive help," she said. "Everybody's left wondering how about what's going to happen to this particular kid."

After the Parkland shooting, Florida lawmakers acted quickly to beef up security and improve safety across the state's 4,300 public schools. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act widened the authority of schools and law enforcement to act against any threat to campus safety.

To authorities and school officials, one provision in the law seemed clear: Anyone who "makes, posts, or transmits" a threat of mass shooting "in any manner that would allow another person to view the threat" has committed a crime.

Judge Gloria R. Walker saw things differently and dismissed the case because she said prosecutors could not prove the threat had been transmitted as described in the law.

hours and the Pleasantville Greyhounds. Authorities said it did not appear that any of the men charged had any connection to the game.

"Our community will not be held hostage by a few idiots intent on jeopardizing our safety and the safety of our children," Atlantic County Prosecutor Damon Tyner said in a news release.

Murder-suicide leaves 5 dead in San Diego

BY JOHN WILKENS
AND KRISTINA DAVIS
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — When an emergency dispatcher answered the first 911 phone call from a home in Paradise Hills, Calif., on Saturday morning, nobody was on the other end of the line. But an argument was heard in the background.

The second call was from a relative next door, who reported hearing what sounded like the pop-pop-pop of a nail gun.

San Diego police officers arrived, looked through a window and saw a 3-year-old boy covered in blood. They broke in, and soon all the horrible pieces came together.

A domestic dispute, a gun and five dead from the same family, three of them boys under the age of 12. Another boy was in the hospital in critical condition Saturday night. Their names have not been released.

"A senseless tragedy," San Diego police Chief David Nilsleit said.

The couple at the center of it were estranged, according to police, and the 29-year-old woman had obtained a temporary restraining order against the 31-year-old man one day earlier.

It's not clear whether he had been served with the papers, but police said they believe he was aware of the order.

Their conflict had brought officers to the house at least once before, two weeks ago, when the man came over to retrieve tools.

Saturday morning, he showed up again, and the shootings happened about 7 a.m. Police said they found the man, woman and their 3-year-old son dead at the scene.

The other sons, ages 5, 9 and 11, were taken to the hospital. Two died. Police initially identified the 11-year-old as the survivor but later said they weren't sure yet which boy was which.

Police said the man shot the

others and then turned the gun on himself. It was found at the scene.

"It appears to be a tragic case of domestic violence murder-suicide," homicide Lt. Matt Dobbs said at a news conference Saturday afternoon.

It unfolded in a working-class neighborhood of single-story stucco and wood-sided homes that date to the 1940s, built to accommodate a World War II population boom.

The woman and four children lived in a grumpy flat adjacent to a house occupied by members of their extended family.

Neighbors said theirs is the kind of street where the kids all get together after school and on weekends, riding bikes and scooters, playing tetherball and shooting baskets at a curbside hoop.

"It's like 'The Sandlot,'" Joana Cruz said, referring to the 1993 movie about a group of baseball-playing boys. "Everybody knows everybody."

She agonized over whether to tell her boys about the shootings.

"But I had to," she said. "Lots of horrible things happen in the world, and it's better to hear it from me, I guess."

At the Saturday afternoon news conference, Nilsleit said domestic violence is a persistent problem in San Diego County and he encouraged victims to use available resources.

According to the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, 17,513 incidents were reported in San Diego County in 2018, up 4% from the previous year.

The council said there were 15 homicides in the county in 2018 in which the suspect was a current or former intimate partner.

Nationwide, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men aged 18 and older have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



HAYNE PALMOUR IV, THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/AP

San Diego Police investigate at the home where two adults and three children died from gunshot wounds during a domestic shooting in the Paradise Hills area of San Diego, Calif., on Saturday.

6 charged in shooting at NJ high school game

Associated Press

PLEASANTVILLE, N.J. — Six men have been charged after a shooting at a New Jersey high school football game that critically wounded a 10-year-old boy and sent players and the packed crowd fleeing in panic.

On Abdullah, 27, was the target of the Friday night shooting and was charged because a gun was

found on him when emergency responders went to his aid, authorities said. He is in stable condition and will be undergoing surgery.

The 10-year-old remained in critical condition Saturday. A 15-year-old boy was treated for a graze wound.

The shooting happened in the stands of a Friday night football game between the Camden Pan-

NATION

Study questions use of some heart procedures

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — People with severe but stable heart disease from clogged arteries may have less chest pain if they get a procedure to improve blood flow rather than just giving medicines a chance to help, but it won't cut their risk of having a heart attack or dying over the following few years, a big federally funded study found.

The results challenge medical dogma and call into question some of the most common practices in heart care. They are the strongest evidence yet that tens of thousands of costly stent procedures and bypass operations

each year are unnecessary or premature for people with stable disease.

That's a different situation than a heart attack when a procedure is needed right away to restore blood flow.

For nonemergency cases, the study shows "there's no need to rush" into invasive tests and procedures, said New York University's Dr. Judith Hochman.

There might even be harm. To doctors' surprise, study participants who had a procedure were more likely to suffer a heart problem or die over the next year than those treated with medicines.

Hochman co-led the study and gave results Saturday at an

American Heart Association conference in Philadelphia.

"This study clearly goes against what has been the common wisdom for the last 30, 40 years" and may lead to less testing and invasive treatment for such patients in the future, said Dr. Glenn Levine, a Baylor College of Medicine cardiologist with no role in the research. Some doctors still may quibble with the study, but it was very well done "and I think the results are extremely believable," he said.

About 17 million Americans have clogged arteries that crimp the heart's blood supply, which can cause periodic chest pain. Cheap and generic aspirin, cho-

lesterol-lowering drugs and blood pressure medicines are known to cut the risk of a heart attack for these folks, but many doctors also recommend a procedure to improve blood flow.

Twelve years ago, a big study found that angioplasty was no better than medicines for preventing heart attacks and deaths in nonemergency heart patients, but many doctors balked at the results and quarreled with the methods.

So the federal government spent \$100 million for the new study, which is twice as large, spanned 37 countries and included people with more severe disease — a group most likely to benefit from

stents or a bypass.

After one year, 7% in the invasively treated group had suffered a heart attack, heart-related death, cardiac arrest or hospitalization for worsening chest pain or heart failure versus 5% of those on medicines alone. At four years, the trend reversed — 13% of the procedures group and 15% of the medicines group had suffered a problem.

Averaged across the entire study period, the rates were similar regardless of treatment.

The bottom line is there's no harm in trying medicines first, especially for people with no or little chest pain, doctors said.

Telescope protest inspires more Native Hawaiian activism

Associated Press

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Flapping Hawaiian flags adorn a large canopy on the easement of a highway that winds along Oahu's famed North Shore.

Under the tent, protesters come and go. Some of them keep guard overnight, and some stop by to wave at cars honking in support or to drop off supplies in a makeshift kitchen area stocked with bottled water, instant noodles and canned meat. On cots and on beach chairs, they are discussing strategies and reminding supporters to maintain a philosophy of peace and nonviolence known in Hawaiian as kapu aloha.

They are at the site trying to prevent the construction of eight wind turbines, each taller than downtown Honolulu's tallest skyscraper.

The ongoing protest by mostly

Native Hawaiians stalling construction of a \$1.4 billion telescope on the Big Island has inspired protests on Oahu — the state's most populous island — to block the turbines and the redevelopment of a beach park.

Since July, protesters who call themselves kiai, or guardians, have gathered on Mauna Kea, Hawaii's tallest mountain, to keep telescope construction crews away. Dozens have been arrested.

Borrowing the civil disobedience methods of the protesters against the telescope, opponents try to block convoys delivering turbine parts to the Kahuku wind farm site. Police have made more than 160 arrests since October.

Hundreds gathered at a storage yard where an equipment convoy began late Thursday, leading to the arrests of 26 people.

"Mauna Kea has emboldened our people to rise up in ways that we have never seen before," said Hinalaimoana Wong, a Native Hawaiian community leader who has been active in the fight against the telescope.

The Mauna Kea and Oahu movements share several traits.

Like on the Big Island mountain, there are protest camps at the Oahu sites of Kahuku and Waimanalo that feature a large tent, food and supplies and even so-called universities featuring lessons and workshops.

"We're here to protect our aina and our community," said Kananui Kūkanui Pōhā, one of the leaders fighting against the turbines, using the Hawaiian word for land. Some of the leaders against the telescope went to the Kahuku encampment to provide advice and guidance, she said.



JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER/AP

Sunny Unga stands with her daughters, from left, Joanne, Alana and Ina, while protesting the construction of eight wind turbines in Kahuku, Hawaii on Oct. 30.

Totenberg Stradivarius played for the first time since theft in 1980

BY VERENA DOBNIK

Associated Press

A Stradivarius violin stolen nearly four decades ago from the virtuoso Roman Totenberg and returned to his family by a federal prosecutor came alive again — at the crime scene.

Star violinist Nathan Meltzer, 19, received the prized instrument of the late Polish-born musician on Friday evening at a public concert in Cambridge, Mass.

He played the same music as Stradivarius had minutes before his Stradivarius disappeared one night in 1980. The thief was a former student, and the violin was eventually found in a California attic.

Recovered by the FBI, it was returned to Totenberg's three daughters four years ago by the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan at the time, Preet Bharara.

"Our father would have been so pleased to hear Nathan, a gifted young violinist, breathe life back into the violin," said Jill Totenberg, a New York media strategist, who attended the concert with Nina, National Public Radio legal affairs corre-

spondent in Washington, and Amy, a federal judge in Atlanta.

"I felt my father was in that hall listening and smiling," said Jill.

Roman Totenberg didn't live to see his instrument again; he died in 2012 at the age of 101. When anyone would ask the Boston University music professor if he thought his violin would ever be found, he said, according to Nina, "After I have kicked the bucket."

Likely worth millions of dollars, though its value has not been disclosed, the instrument made in Italy by Antonio Stradivari in 1734 is now on long-term loan to Meltzer, who is taking it around the world as he concertizes.

Meltzer studies at The Juilliard School in New York with the famed Itzhak Perlman.

In Cambridge, at a performance titled "Homecoming," Meltzer offered an audience seated in a circle around him the music Totenberg last played on what he called his "musical partner" that he would never see again: pieces by Bach, Beethoven, the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok and the Frenchman Cesar Franck.



HANA ASAZUMA-CHENG/AP

Nathan Meltzer plays a Stradivarius violin at a concert in Cambridge, Mass., on Friday for the first time since it was returned in 2015 after being stolen in 1980.

The soloist ended with music by Totenberg's fellow native Poles, composers Karol Szymanowski and Henryk Wieniawski.

Son takes drugs to school; father pleads not guilty

Associated Press

HOLYOKE, Mass. — A Massachusetts man has pleaded not guilty to drug charges after authorities said his 5-year-old son took heroin to school and told his teacher that when he tastes the powder he becomes Spider-Man.

The Daily Hampshire Gazette reported that Benny Garcia, 29, of Holyoke, was arraigned Friday in Holyoke District Court. He faces charges of drug possession and reckless endangerment of a child.

Prosecutors say Garcia's son took a plastic bag decorated with Spider-Man to kindergarten Thursday and put it in his mouth, telling a teacher eating the powder turns him into the superhero. Authorities say the boy was taken to a hospital but was unharmed.

Police searching Garcia's home say they found more than 200 bags of heroin and cocaine.

A judge ordered Garcia held without bail until a hearing Wednesday.

WORLD

Venice sees 3rd exceptional tide within a week

By COLLEEN BARRY
AND LUCA BRUNO
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy — Venice was hit Sunday by a record third exceptional tide in a week while other parts of Italy struggled with a series of weather woes, from rain-swollen rivers to high winds to an out-of-season avalanche.

Stores and museums in Venice were mostly closed in the hardest-hit area around St. Mark's Square, but tourists donned high rubber boots or even hip waders to witness and photograph the spectacle.

Most were disappointed when officials closed down the historic square as winds rippled across the rising waters. The doors of the famed St. Mark's Basilica were securely shut to the public, and authorities took precautions — stacking sandbags in canal-side windows — to prevent salt-

laden water from entering the crypt again.

Venice's Tide Office said the peak tide of nearly 5 feet hit just after 1 p.m., but a weather front off the coast blocked southerly winds from the Adriatic Sea from pushing the tide to the predicted level of 5 feet, 2 inches.

Still it marked the third time since Tuesday night's 6-foot flood — the worst in 53 years — that water levels in Venice had topped almost 5 feet. Since records began in 1872, that level had never been reached even twice in one year, let alone three times within a week.

While Venetians had a bit of relief, days of heavy rainfall and snowfall elsewhere in Italy swelled rivers to worrisome levels, triggered an avalanche in the Alps and saw dramatic rescues of people in the countryside who couldn't flee rising waters.

In Venice, many store owners in the swanky area around St.



LUCA BRUNO/AP

People walk on raised gangways in a flooded St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy, on Sunday

Mark's completely emptied their shops, while others put their wares as high as possible and counted on automatic pumping systems to keep the water at bay. In one luxury boutique, employees used water vacuums and big squeegee mops to keep the brackish lagoon waters from advancing.

Venice's mayor has put the flooding damage at hundreds of millions of euros, and Italian officials have declared a state of emergency for the area. They say Venice is still sinking into the mud and facing rising sea levels

due to climate change.

Luca D'Acunto and his girlfriend, Giovanna Maglietta, surveyed the rising water from a bridge, wondering how to make their way to their nearby hotel in their colorful yet inadequate rubber boots.

"We made the reservation ... before the floods and had paid already, so we came," said D'Acunto, 28, from Naples. "Instead of a romantic trip, we'll have an adventurous one."

Most museums were closed as a precaution, but the Correr Mu-

seum, which overlooks St. Mark's Square and explores the art and history of Venice, remained open. Tourists enjoyed a Venetian Spritz — a colorful aperitif with an Italian bitter and Prosecco — as the waters rose.

Officials said 280 civil protection volunteers were deployed to assist as needed. Young Venetian volunteers in rubber boots have also showed up at key sites, including the city's Music Conservatory, to help save precious manuscripts from the invading saltwater.

Ayatollah: Protesters are 'thugs'

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's supreme leader on Sunday backed the government's decision to raise gasoline prices and called angry protesters who have been setting fire to public property over the increase "thugs," signaling a potential crackdown on the demonstrations.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments came as authorities shut down internet access from Iran to soothe the protests in some two dozen cities and towns over the rise of government-set prices by 50% as of Friday. One firm said it was the biggest internet outage ever seen in Iran.

Since the increase, demonstrators have abandoned their cars along major highways and joined mass protests in the capital, Tehran, and elsewhere. Some protesters turned violent, with demonstrators setting fires, and there was also gunfire.

It remains to be seen how many people have been injured, killed and arrested as videos from the protests have shown people gravely wounded.

Iranian authorities on Sunday raised the official death toll in the



ABDOLVAHEH MIRZAZADEH, ISNA/AP

A gas station is burned during protests in Tehran, Iran, on Sunday that followed authorities' decision to raise gasoline prices.

violence surrounding the unrest to at least two Attackers targeting a police station in Kermanshah on Saturday killed one officer there, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday. Earlier, one man was reported killed.

In an address aired by state television Sunday, Khamenei said "some lost their lives and some places were destroyed," without elaborating. He called violent protesters "thugs" who had been pushed into violence by counter-revolutionaries and foreign enemies of Iran. He specifically named those aligned with the family of Iran's late shah, ousted 40 years ago, and an exile group called the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq.

"Setting a bank on fire is not an act done by the people. This is what thugs do," Khamenei said.

However, he made a point to back the decision of Iran's relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani and others to raise

gasoline prices. Gasoline in the country still remains among the cheapest in the world, with the new prices jumping up to a minimum of 15,000 rials per liter of gas — 50% up from the day before. That's 13 cents a liter, or about 50 cents a gallon. A gallon of regular gasoline in the U.S. costs \$2.60 by comparison.

Khamenei ordered security forces "to implement their tasks" and for Iran's citizens to keep clear of violent demonstrators.

That seemed to indicate a possible crackdown could be looming. Economic protests in late 2017 into 2018 were met by a heavy reaction by the police and the Basij, the all-volunteer force of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

"Such illegal actions would not solve any problem but add insecurity on top of other problems," Khamenei said.

UK media: Prince Andrew's effort to rebut claims he had sex with teenager a disaster

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — British media on Sunday slammed Prince Andrew's effort to rebut claims that he had sex with a teenager who says she was trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein, branding his televised interview a complete public relations disaster.

In a rare interview with BBC Newsnight that was broadcast late Saturday, Andrew categorically denied having sex with the woman, Virginia Roberts Giuffre. But Britain's newspapers and social media commentators criticized him for defending his friendship with Epstein and for failing to show empathy for the convicted sex offender's victims.

"I expected a train wreck," said Charlie Proctor, editor of the Royal Central website, which covers the British monarchy. "That was a plane crashing into an oil tanker, causing a tsunami, triggering a nuclear explosion-level bad."

Giuffre has said Epstein forced her to have sex with Andrew in 2001, when she was 17. She says Epstein flew her around the world on private planes to have sex with powerful men, and that she had sexual encounters with Andrew in London, New York and the U.S.

Virgin Islands.

The BBC's Emily Maitlis grilled Andrew on the details of an alleged encounter in March of that year, when Giuffre says she dined with the prince in London, danced with him at the Tramp nightclub, then had sex with him at a house in the tony London neighborhood of Belgravia.

"I can absolutely, categorically tell you it never happened," Andrew said.

The prince, 59, said he had "no recollection" of ever meeting Giuffre, adding that there are "a number of things that are wrong" with her account. He also suggested that a picture showing him with his arm around the teenage Giuffre may have been faked.

There was no immediate comment from Giuffre's representative about the prince's interview.

Giuffre had recently challenged the British royal to speak out, telling reporters in New York that "he knows exactly what he's done."

"And the answer is nothing," Andrew told the BBC.

The New York medical examiner ruled Epstein's death a suicide last summer. He had been in prison awaiting trial on federal sex-trafficking charges, which he had denied.

WORLD

Hong Kong police target protesters at university

By KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Police launched a late-night operation Sunday to try to flush about 200 protesters out of a university campus on a day of clashes in which an officer was hit in the leg with an arrow and massive barrages of tear gas and water cannons were fired.

Riot police began moving in on one group of protesters outside the campus after issuing an ultimatum for people to leave area. They used tear gas and water cannons on a resistant crowd wearing raincoats and carrying umbrellas.

Protesters used bows and arrows earlier in the day, and one arrow struck a media liaison officer in the calf. Photos on the department's Facebook page show the arrow sticking out of the back of the officer's leg through his pants.

As riot police moved in from all sides, some protesters retreated inside Hong Kong Polytechnic

University while others set fires on bridges leading to it.

A huge blaze burned along much of a long footbridge that connects a train station to the campus over the approach to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel, a major road under Hong Kong's harbor that has been blocked by the protesters for days.

The use of bows and arrows, along with gasoline bombs launched with catapults, threatened to escalate the violence in the more than five-month-long anti-government movement. Protesters are trying to keep the pressure on Hong Kong leaders, who have rejected most of their demands.

The protests were sparked by proposed legislation that would have allowed the extradition of criminal suspects to the mainland. Activists saw it as an erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy under the "one country, two systems" formula implemented in 1997, when Britain returned the terri-

tory to China.

The bill has been withdrawn, but the protests have expanded into a wider resistance movement against what is perceived as the growing control of Hong Kong by Communist China, along with calls for full democracy for the territory.

Several hundred people formed a human chain Sunday in central Hong Kong in a peaceful rally in support of the movement.

Police and protesters faced off all day outside Polytechnic after a pitched battle the previous night in which the two sides exchanged tear gas and gasoline bombs that left fires blazing in the street.

A large group of people arrived in the morning to try to clean up the road but were warned away by protesters. Riot police shot several volleys of tear gas at the protesters, who sheltered behind a wall of umbrellas and threw gasoline bombs into nearby bushes and trees, setting them on fire.

Protesters began retreating



Ng Han Guan/AP

Protesters look out from behind a barricade as a fire burns near Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Sunday. Police used tear gas and water cannons to try to flush out protesters occupying a university campus.

into the university near sunset, fearing they would be trapped as police fired tear gas volleys and approached from other directions. The protesters have barricaded the entrances to the campus and set up narrow access control points.

They are the holdouts from larger groups that occupied sev-

eral major campuses for much of last week.

The Education Bureau announced that classes from kindergarten to high school would be suspended again Monday because of safety concerns. Classes have been canceled since Thursday after the bureau came under criticism for not doing so earlier.



KAMRAN JEBREILI/AP

French aircraft of the Patrouille de France spray colored smoke during a performance on the opening day of the Dubai Airshow in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday.

Dubai Airshow kicks off as airlines slow down purchases

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The biennial Dubai Airshow opened Sunday as major Gulf airlines rein back big-ticket purchases after a staggering \$140 billion in new orders were announced at the 2013 show before global oil prices collapsed.

The airshow, which runs until Thursday, draws major commercial and military firms from around the world, as well as smaller manufacturers competing for business in the Middle East. The United States has the largest foreign country presence,

with over 100 companies represented.

The Chicago-based Boeing was likely to use the airshow to emphasize its dedication to safety after crashes of its 737 Max killed 346 people. The planes have been grounded around the world, affecting customers like flydubai which has more than a dozen of the jets in its fleet and more than 230 on order.

Boeing and Biman Bangladesh Airlines signed a deal for two 787-9s aircraft, which list at \$29.5 million apiece. However, buyers often get better deals from manufacturers.

Report on Russian meddling raises UK election questions

Associated Press

LONDON — Questions about the British government's failure to release a report on Russia's interference in the country's politics continued to dog Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday as critics said leaks from the document raised concerns about the security of next month's election.

The report from Parliament's intelligence committee concludes that Russian interference may have affected the 2016 referendum on Britain's departure from the European Union, though the impact is "unquantifiable," the Times of London reported without saying how it got the information.

The committee said British intelligence services failed to devote enough resources to counter the threat and highlighted the impact of articles posted by Russian news sites that were widely disseminated on social media, the newspaper reported.

Emily Thornberry, the opposition Labour Party's foreign affairs spokeswoman, said the leaks raise questions that deserve answers.

"Boris Johnson therefore needs to clear up the confusion, spin and speculation around this (intelligence committee) report by publishing it in full at the earliest opportunity," she told the Times. "If not, people will rightly continue to ask: What is he trying to hide from the British public and why?"

Johnson's government has said it needs more time to review the security implications of the report, but it will be released after the election.

Critics have alleged the report is being withheld because it shows Russians have made large donations to the Conservative Party, which is seeking to win a majority that would allow Johnson to push his Brexit deal through Parliament.

Havana celebrates 500th anniversary

Associated Press

HAVANA — Hundreds of people in Cuba's capital stood in line to kiss, touch or walk around a towering silk flower tree Saturday in a nod to tradition as they celebrate Havana's 500th anniversary this weekend.

The event comes as Cuba deals with an ailing economy and increasingly tense relations with the U.S., concerns that were briefly cast aside as residents prepared for a gala event Saturday night featuring fireworks, music and international dignitaries.

As part of the celebrations, officials restored monuments, painted buildings, unveiled exhibitions and held book presentations.

"Havana grows, lives, sings, dances and dreams," said Felix Julio Alfonso, a professor who spoke before granting the public access to the revered silk flower tree.

Many in the crowd shared their wishes with the tree, including requests for health or financial well-being. Some left money while others wore white as dictated by Afro-Cuban Santería, the island's predominant religion.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officers growing beards to benefit veterans

VT ST. JOHNSBURY — Officers in a Vermont police department are growing beards to benefit military veterans and their families.

The Caledonian Record reported that the St. Johnsbury Police Department is one of more than 120 across the country participating in the "Home Base No Shave Campaign" to increase mental health awareness and to raise funds to support veterans and military families.

Five of the 11 full-time St. Johnsbury officers will be letting their beards grow throughout November to raise money for veteran clinical and support programs and promote conversation about getting care. Participating officers have pledged \$100 while growing beards, mustaches and goatees.

Doctor sentenced for fake breast implants

ID POCATELLO — A judge has sentenced an Idaho doctor to seven months in prison for receipt and delivery of misbranded breast implants given to patients.

Prosecutors announced Thursday that Temp Ray Patterson, 55, was also sentenced to one year of supervised release after his prison sentence.

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winnill ordered the former Burley doctor to pay \$8,200 restitution and a \$10,000 fine.

Authorities said Patterson knowingly implanted nine pairs of misbranded breast implants shipped from China and unapproved by the Food and Drug Administration from March 2014 through April 2015.

Last survivor of the Hindenburg fire dies

NH LACONIA — The last remaining survivor of the Hindenburg disaster has died. Werner Gustav Doehner was 90.

His son said a church service will end Friday for Doehner, who died on Nov. 8 at a hospital in Laconia.

Doehner was the only person left of the 62 passengers and crew who survived the May 6, 1937, fire that killed his father, sister and 34 others. As the 80th anniversary approached in 2017, Doehner told The Associated Press he and his family were returning from a vacation in Germany on the 804-foot-long zeppelin to Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey.

As the Hindenburg arrived, Doehner began to flicker on top of the ship. Hydrogen, exposed to air, fueled an inferno.

2 men arrested in robbery, shootouts

AZ TUCSON — Two men are in custody following an armed robbery, a carjacking and two shootouts with police in the Tucson area.

Pima County Sheriff Mark Napier said the incident began with a robbery call at a dollar store Fri-



MIKE HENSSELL, THE GASTON (GASTONIA, N.C.) GAZETTE/AP

Slime kits for sale

Elia Kiser, 7, demonstrates one of her stocking stuffer Slime Kits during the Boutique Belmont Christmas Market event held in and around Stowe Manor in Belmont, N.C., on Saturday.

day. Responding officers arrested one man while another fled.

Four minutes later, authorities say a deputy found the suspect's vehicle and exchanged gunfire. The man drove off and later crashed, again exchanging gunfire with two deputies. He ran and carjacked a pickup truck towing a trailer.

KGUN-TV reported he was arrested following a ground and air search. Napier said nobody was injured in the incidents.

Sex workers escape kidnapping attempts

NY CORAM — Federal authorities said a Long Island man with a history of violence toward sex workers twice attempted to kidnap women, but each escaped by jumping from his moving vehicle.

Andrew Frey, 54, pleaded not guilty Friday to charges of attempted kidnapping and attempted trafficking by force. The married father of two was ordered jailed pending a Nov. 22 court date.

Prosecutors said they found rope, zip ties and knot-tying manuals at his Coram home and that he kept handcuffs in his car.

Prosecutors said Frey tried to abduct one woman in October 2018, approached her again after she escaped and targeted a second woman in July.

Another sex worker obtained a restraining order after Frey al-

THE CENSUS

42

The weight in pounds of a blue catfish caught recently by a 9-year-old boy who was fishing in the Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico. Kris Flores told KVIA-TV that his son, Alex, made the catch on Nov. 10 and shattered his dad's record. Flores said Alex named the fish Whale Lord. He released it back into the reservoir after taking some photos and videos.

legedly rammed her vehicle with his.

Ex-police clerk gets 6 years for secret videos

CA LONG BEACH — A former police records clerk who secretly took videos of 69 co-workers in men's bathrooms at the Long Beach Police Department has been sentenced to six years in jail.

The Long Beach Press-Tribune said Sergio Nieto, 29, of Downey, was sentenced Friday after pleading no contest to dozens of misdemeanor counts of invasion of privacy.

Authorities said Nieto made hundreds of videos in several police department bathrooms over a two-year span. He was arrested last year after he was seen filming in a bathroom.

Flight attendant with gun in bag charged

FL ORLANDO — Authorities said security officers found a loaded handgun in a flight attendant's carry-on bag at

a Florida airport.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that Joseph Brozyna, 28, was arrested Thursday and charged with carrying a concealed firearm and carrying a firearm in a prohibited place.

Police said the Frontier Airlines flight attendant was passing through security at Orlando International Airport when Transportation Security Administration agents found the .40 caliber pistol. An arrest report says Brozyna acknowledged that the gun was his. He told police he recently went on a road trip with his gun in the bag and forgot to remove it.

Officials said Brozyna's concealed carry permit had been suspended. Frontier Airlines said Brozyna is also suspended.

Man accused of using car as battering ram

WI LA CROSSE — Prosecutors have accused a Minnesota man of using a Porsche as a battering ram to get his Nissan Altima out of an Onalaska impound lot.

The La Crosse Tribune reported that Benjamin Gjere, of Lanes-

boro, was charged Thursday with operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent, property damage, theft and jumping bail.

According to investigators, Gjere's 2019 Altima was impounded Nov. 6 after he was pulled over.

Surveillance video shows Gjere and an unidentified accomplice on the lot Sunday. An unlocked 2012 Porsche with the keys inside was parked behind the Altima.

The video shows the Porsche crashing through the lot's fence and a fence of a nearby house and the Altima being driven through the holes in the fences.

Gjere was pulled over in Winona County about an hour later.

4 allegedly planned to bring knives to school

CT GROTON — Four Connecticut high school students are facing breach of peace charges after allegedly planning to bring knives to school.

Police said the male students from Fitch High School in Groton planned to bring the knives to school Friday. Authorities received complaints from students and parents about 10:30 p.m. Thursday and immediately intervened.

The students allegedly threatened violence against one another on social media, though the threats were not directed against the school or the general student population.

From wire reports

FACES

Learning to say NO



Sterling K. Brown

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Success forcing 'This Is Us' actor Sterling K. Brown to be choosy

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

With a hit TV series, awards, plus film and TV opportunities, Sterling K. Brown admits he's experienced "a lot of pinch-me moments" in recent years. But, with all those possibilities and offers, the 43-year-old has also learned a very important lesson — how to say no.

"No" has become my best friend," said Brown without hesitation during an interview in a New York hotel suite. He says it's not an ungrateful no, but a "no, with integrity," and shares an example.

"Honestly, I appreciate your consideration of me to be a part of this project, but at this particular time, this is what's on my slate and I have to say no."

But when he says yes, the "This Is Us" star picks some pretty powerful projects. Besides his Emmy-winning role on the NBC drama that regularly elicits tears from its viewers, Brown has three roles coming out this season that will likely amplify his rapidly rising star in Hollywood.

The first came out over the weekend in "Waves," in which he plays a demanding father who pushes his son to reach perfection — until the teen reaches his breaking point.

"He's a dad that I know. He's not my dad. And hopefully I'm not that dad necessarily to my children, but he is a dad that I know," said Brown, who has two sons, ages 4 and 8, with his wife, actress Ryan Michelle Bathe.

There's a point in the film when Brown's character, Ronald, laments to his son that the expectations put upon him are great because he's a young black man.

Brown says that's something his mother imparted — "you've got to be twice as good

to get far," he recalls her saying — and he's even begun to broach it with his oldest son.

"I feel like it's conscious and unconscious," said the actor.

"You try to give me the mentality to know that it's not the same walk. Your young, white counterparts can make certain sorts of mistakes and they'll be called boys being boys. But when a young, black boy does the exact same thing, the repercussions, the ramifications are just different. I don't think that's a bad lesson."

While "Waves" grapples with weighty subjects and has garnered some early Oscar buzz, his other film project of the fall is a more joyful experience, and a sure blockbuster: He stars in "Frozen 2" in a supporting role as a figure from Elsa and Anna's past.

While he's glad to be in something his children can enjoy, there's a self-serving reason he took the job. He's a self-professed "Disney fiend."

"I would go to see animated films all the time opening weekend before I had children," he said. "The 'Toy Story' trilogy is my joint. ... I remember going to see 'Kung Fu Panda' ... and weeping like a baby."

He particularly enjoyed getting to peek behind the curtain into how animated films get made.

"They're so detail-oriented because different faces make different sounds. The way that I smile they're like, 'You have a really big smile,' so they tried to incorporate that into the character. I watched it and I can see it."

And in December, we'll see Brown jump into the fast-talking, colorful world of Amazon's Emmy-winning "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." It's a role that he says executive producers Amy Sherman-Palladino and Dan Palladino wrote with him in mind.

"It's a whole other playground. The Pallasinos' playground," Brown said. "They write eight-page lines and as soon as you mess up you go back to the top and you do it again. It's like doing theater, which I appreciate because I came from NYU (New York University) and I've got a theater background."

"Maisel" and "Frozen 2" not only benefit from Brown's considerable acting prowess and star power but also gain diversity. Helping increase quality opportunities for actors of color is a key priority for Brown, and led him to create his own production company, Indian Meadows, named after his hometown neighborhood in St. Louis. On the docket: a film co-starring Kerry Washington that they each will help produce.

Brown hopes to produce smart, sophisticated work that he says he often didn't see when he was just entering the business.

"I think when I came out of school, the UPN and the WB hadn't merged into The CW yet. There were a lot of shows that were ... simple is not the world but, I don't know, you could do laundry while you watched it. You didn't have to really pay attention to what was transpiring in terms of the story that was being told," he said.

"In my career I played one side of the law or the other. I was a cop or I was a bad guy. I would turn on the TV and I'd see the ultrarich or the ultra-poor," he added. "Do I see the middle where I think most of the people that I know actually exist? I'm just trying to make television and film that reflects."

After those early years playing one-dimensional roles like the cop or the bad guy, Brown is glad to be in a groove where showing his range is just a typical day at the office.

"You're constantly trying to broaden people's minds," he said. "I want to do it all and be like Tom Hanks, man."

Creator of Lizzo slogan could get Grammy nod

Associated Press

Mina Lioness' longstanding battle to finally receive writing credit on Lizzo's megahit song "Truth Hurts" is paying off in more ways than one: it could win her a potential Grammy Award.

Lizzo's breakthrough tune features the signature line — "I just took a DNA test, turns out I'm 100% that bitch" — a lyric that originated from a 2017 tweet by Lioness and was turned into a popular meme. And now Lioness, a singer based in London who Lizzo agreed to give writing credit to, has a chance at earning her first Grammy nomination if "Truth Hurts" scores a nomination for song of the year — a category reserved for the writers of a song.

"I haven't really been able to kind of just sit and ponder what the ramifications is of this happening. I mean, it's just surreal to me," Lioness said. ... "It's just another one of those moments when you're like, 'Wow.'"

The Recording Academy will announce its nominees Nov. 20. When Grammy submissions were due earlier this year, Lioness had not been a listed writer of "Truth Hurts," but Atlantic Records, Lizzo's label home, told the AP they are in the process of submitting Lioness' name as a co-writer of "Truth Hurts" to the Grammys.

"Truth Hurts," which topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for seven weeks, is a likely contender in categories like song of the year, in which Lioness would share the nomination with co-writers Lizzo, Ricky Reed, Tele and Jesse Saint John. The song could also land a nomination for record of the year, a category that awards the song's performers, producers and engineers/mixers, or best pop solo performance, an award that would only be given to Lizzo.

Rosalia win top honor at Latin Grammys

Spanish singer Rosalia, the breakthrough performer known for blending flamenco music with sounds like reggaeton and Latin trap, won album of the year at the 2019 Latin Grammys, becoming the first solo female performer to win the top honor since Shakira's triumph 17 years ago.

Rosalia won three awards Nov. 14, tying top nominee Alejandro Sanz and besting the veteran singer-songwriter in categories like album of the year and best contemporary pop vocal album with her project, "El Mal Querer."

Shakira's "Fijacion Oral Vol. 1" won album of the year at the Latin Grammys in 2006.



Lioness

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and 60 cents on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #5002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #5002, APO AP 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Demographics could doom Eastern Europe

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

Thirty years ago, the Berlin Wall fell, signaling that the end was near for communism in Eastern Europe. The question now is whether the end might be near for Eastern Europe, demographically.

This is an exaggeration — but not a totally unfounded one. Of the 20 most rapidly shrinking countries in the world, 15 are erstwhile Warsaw Pact members, ex-Soviet republics or components of the former Yugoslavia (plus neighboring Albania). If East Germany were still a politically separate entity, it would also be on the list, which is headed by Bulgaria. That Slavic nation's population is on track to decline 23%, from 7.2 million to 5.2 million by 2050, according to United Nations projections.

As you may also have noticed, Eastern Europe, including eastern Germany, is a hotbed of populism. Self-declared "liberal democrat" Viktor Orban reigns in Hungary (current population 9.8 million, with an annual growth rate of -0.25%), while in the eastern German state of Thuringia, whose population of 2.1 million represents roughly a 20% decline since the end of Communist rule, ultraleft and ultraright parties captured a combined 54% of the vote in elections on Oct. 27.

The relationship between extremist politics and population decline is not coincidental — and it has powerful implications both for Europe's political future and that of the United States.

Eastern Europe's looming demographic crisis stems directly from its escaping the Soviet orbit in 1989. Freedom of movement, coupled with membership in the borderless European Union, enabled millions of working-age people to leave the former Soviet bloc for work in the more prosperous West.

Emigration, plus low and declining birthrates — a characteristic of modern society

Eastern Europe's looming demographic crisis stems directly from its escaping the Soviet orbit in 1989.

that Eastern Europe shares with Western Europe and the United States — has resulted in whole villages hollowing out, with only pensioners left behind.

Peoples with ancient roots who experienced collective euphoria in 1989 now confront the demoralizing prospect of demographic malaise. Economically, the process feeds on itself, because growth requires an expanding labor force. In terms of security, nations with ever-smaller military-age cohorts cannot be effective NATO allies.

And psychologically, it's dispiriting to be part of a country that is slowly dying. It can be engaging too. That goes double in countries, such as Hungary and Poland, with histories of occupation and national dismemberment by outside powers.

Instead of feeling like the heroes of the 1989 revolution, or, at least beneficiaries, many Eastern Europeans look at aging, shrinking populations and consider themselves victims. And if anything fuels populism, it's a sense of victimization.

The success of cities such as Prague and Berlin offers no consolation. To the contrary. As Philip Alwerwald, of George Mason University, and Palo Alto Longevity Prize founder Jeon Yun have noted in an astute recent article on the phenomenon, populism feeds on "the juxtaposition of rural population and economic decline against the growth and increasing prosperity of the larger cities."

By now, the parallels to Western Europe and the United States should be apparent. Brexit enjoyed its greatest support in rural, demographically declining areas of Eng-

land; populists dominate politics in Italy, whose population of 60 million is projected to decline 10% by 2050.

President Donald Trump enjoys his strongest support among older inhabitants of lightly populated areas where, as in much of Soviet Eastern Europe, economic life centered on agriculture, mining or occasionally, basic industries. Loudly voiced contempt for the pampered, politically correct hypocrites of San Francisco and Washington is central to his appeal.

Fifty-eight percent of registered voters in West Virginia, for example, approve of Trump's performance in office, according to an October poll by Morning Consult.

West Virginia is the nation's fourth oldest state, with a median age of 42.4 years; it is 94% white and, according to USA Today, the only state with both negative natural population growth and net out-migration in 2016.

Demographic decline is extremely difficult to reverse, wherever it occurs. As experience has shown in various countries, governments cannot do much to raise birthrates, even with generous subsidies for families with children.

Obviously, immigration counters the negative impact of labor force decline on economic growth; in every other respect, however, it energizes populism, at least of the right-wing variety, by raising the specter of demographic "replacement."

The United States, with its robust tradition of immigration and a national identity defined more by ideas than ethnicity, remains — even in the age of Trump — better positioned to cope with the decline in the economic and political effects of lower birthrates and slow population growth.

On the other side of the Atlantic, demographic decline and populist reaction seem likely to persist and interact for the foreseeable future, as a long, hangover from that big coming-out party in 1989.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

Yemen gets a rare, much-needed shot at peace

By BOBBY GHOSH

Bloomberg Opinion

Yemen is a graveyard of optimism. In five years of war, a cessation of hostilities — even if temporary — seemed possible several times. There was a truce in the summer of 2015, two cease-fires and peace talks in Kuwait in 2016, and talks in Stockholm at the end of 2018.

Each time, the hopes raised were just as quickly snuffed out, interred along with the 100,000 people killed in the fighting.

So it would be easy, even expedient, to regard with skepticism the reports of back-channel negotiations between two key belligerents, Saudi Arabia and the Houthis rebels. But a flurry of other developments in the past two weeks allow for a resurrection of hope.

First, a quick reminder of who we got here. In 2014, the Houthis, a Shiite sect from northern Yemen backed by Iran, took Sanaa from the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. A Saudi-led Arab coalition joined the fighting on Hadi's side, with intelligence and logistical support from the U.S. The Houthis advanced all the way south to Aden, where they encountered stiff resistance from a combination of Hadi's forces, southern militias and the Arab coalition.

But earlier this past summer, that coalition was frayed by divisions between Hadi and the southerners, leading to the prospect of a civil war within a civil war. This

played right into the hands of the Houthis and their Iranian patrons.

Meanwhile, elements of the Arab coalition, especially the United Arab Emirates, were warring of the endless war. The Houthis now receiving more support from Tehran, were launching missile, rocket and drone attacks deep into Saudi territory.

Now for the fresh signs of hope. In late September, the Houthis announced they were suspending attacks on Saudi territory. Shortly afterward, the Saudis announced a limited cease-fire in some parts of Houthi-controlled Yemen, including Sanaa. Crown prince Mohammed bin Salman told CBS' "60 Minutes" that he was open to "all initiatives for a political solution in Yemen." Houthi leaders echoed the sentiment.

The Saudis then turned to the crisis in the south, and sponsored a peace deal between Hadi and the southern separatists. This allowed the UAE to pull some troops out of Aden.

The Emiratis also declared that the Houthis were "a part of Yemeni society and they will have a role in its future" — the most conciliatory language from Abu Dhabi in a long time. And the Saudis said they had "an open channel" to the rebels.

Alert readers will have noticed that one key voice is missing: Iran's. The Islamic Republic has been somewhat distracted in recent weeks by mass protests in Lebanon and Iraq over the role of Iranian proxies — Hezbollah and Shiite militias — in national affairs. Iran also finds itself sidelined from

the conversation in Syria, where Russia and Turkey seem to be calling the shots.

Whether the softening of the Houthi stance meets full approval from Tehran is hard to know. Compared with its proxies elsewhere in the Middle East, Iran's relationship with the Yemeni rebels is relatively new; it is also more opportunistic and transactional than ideological. Unlike Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah, the Houthi leadership doesn't pay open obeisance to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. Nor does the Houthis seek Iranian military commander who manages the proxies, travel around Yemen as he does in Iraq.

The real test of Houthi agency, independent from Iran, lies in whether the rebels can make a long-term deal with the Saudis — even if that doesn't fit into Tehran's plans. Equally, reaching that deal will be a test of Riyadh's ability to pay a proxy away from the Iranian grid, using diplomacy where kinetic means have failed.

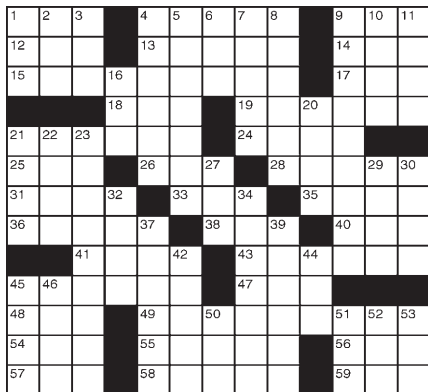
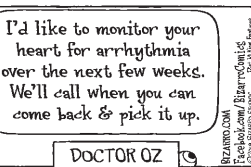
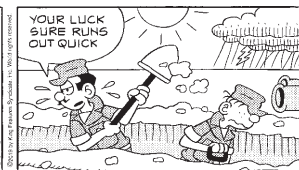
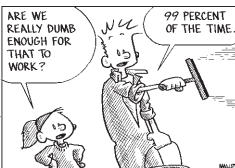
There's little the U.S., or any other nation, can do to help beyond encouraging the Saudis to stick to the jaw-jaw instead of the war-war. But the international community can, and should leap at the opportunity to get more humanitarian assistance to the Yemenis. Rescuing optimism from its Yemeni grave will take time, but this is as good a time as any to start digging.

Bobby Ghosh is a columnist and member of the Bloomberg Opinion editorial board. He writes on foreign affairs, with a special focus on the Middle East and the wider Islamic world.

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Above: Free agent quarterback Colin Kaepernick participates in a workout for NFL football scouts and media, Saturday at Charles Drew High in Riverdale, Ga. Below: Fans watch the workout behind a fence.

Late audible: Kaepernick moves workout to school

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

RIVERDALE, Ga. — Colin Kaepernick's saga took another surreal turn Saturday — a last-minute audible to nix an NFL-arranged workout and a quick dash 60 miles to the other side of metro Atlanta, where the exiled quarterback staged his own impromptu passing display on a high school field in dwindling light as hundreds of fans cheered him on from behind a chain-link fence.

Kaepernick threw passes for about 40 minutes at Charles Drew High School and spent nearly that long signing autographs for a crowd that steadily grew as word spread that a quarterback who led the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl and sparked a wave of protests and divisive debate by kneeling during the national anthem, was in the neighborhood.

Kaepernick declared again that he's ready to play in the NFL.

"I've been ready for three years," he said. "I've been denied for three years. We all know why. I came out here today and showed it in front of everybody. We have nothing to hide. We're waiting for the 32 owners, the 32 teams, (Commissioner) Roger Goodell, all of them to stop running, stop running from the truth, stop running from the people."

In a move no one saw coming, the league that Kaepernick claims blackballed him called Tuesday with a take-it-or-leave-it offer to hold an extraordinary workout at the Atlanta Falcons' training complex in the sprawling suburbs north of the city.

All 32 teams were invited. Former NFL head coaches Hue Jackson and Joe Philbin were set to run the drills. The league said 25 teams were sending scouts and representatives — many of whom had already arrived at the Falcons' indoor training facility in Flowery Branch when word came that Kaepernick wasn't going to take part.

Instead, he decided to hold a workout open to the media, unlike the session at the Falcons' facility, at a high school stadium just south of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Sixty miles away.

With barely more than an hour to spare, the media that had been herded into a gated-off area in the parking lot and told that was as close as they would



get to Kaepernick's workout hustled to their vehicles to set off for a high school most had never heard of.

But only eight of the original 25 team representatives followed along to the new location, including Philadelphia Eagles vice president of football operations Andrew Berry. It appeared the New York Jets, Kansas City and Washington also had scouts in attendance.

They stood along the sideline, jotting into their notepads as Kaepernick tossed passes to four free-agent receivers.

"Our biggest thing with everything today was to make sure we had transparency in what went on," Kaepernick said. "We weren't getting that elsewhere, so we came out here."

Kaepernick, who worked out in a tank top and shorts, has clearly kept himself in good shape during his near three-year layoff. His passes had plenty of zip on them, though he was a bit off target with a few of his deep throws. It was not the sort of session that would likely sway a team one way or the other.

That didn't appear to be the point.

Kaepernick has insisted all along that everyone knows he is good enough to play in the NFL. He claims this is all about his decision to kneel as a way of protesting police brutality and racial injustice, which led to a contentious national debate that stretched all the way to the White House.

Top 25 roundup

Tennessee too much for No. 20 Washington

Associated Press

TORONTO — Jordan Bowden scored 15 of his 18 points in the first half Saturday, Lamonte Turner had 16 points and Tennessee upset No. 20 Washington 75-62.

Yves Pons scored 15 points, John Fulkerson had 14 and Turner added seven rebounds and eight assists as the Volunteers improved to 3-0 and handed Washington its first loss in three games this season.

The game was the middle feature in the James Naismith High of Fame Classic, an NCAA triple header at Scotiabank Arena in downtown Toronto, home of the defending NBA-champion Raptors.

Washington, which began its season with a neutral-site win over ranked Baylor, didn't fare so well north of the border, falling behind by as many as 14 against the Volunteers.

No. 7 Maryland 80 Oakland 50: Darryl Morsell led a balanced attack with 14 points and the host Terrapins used a strong defensive effort to power past visiting the Golden Grizzlies. Anthony Cowan Jr. contributed 11 points, seven assists and six rebounds for Maryland. Aaron Wiggins scored 10 and Jalen Smith added eight points and seven rebounds.

After opening with lopsided victories at home against Holy Cross and Rhode Island, the Terrapins are off a 3-0 start for the sixth year in a row.

Xavier Hill-Mais led Oakland (3-2) with 18 points. The Golden Grizzlies shot 36.5%.

No. 9 Virginia 60, Columbia 42: Mamadi Diakite and Jay Huff scored 13 points each to lead the host Cavaliers.

Kibei Clark added 10 points for Virginia (3-0), which led 31-17 at halftime and substituted liberally throughout the second half. Walk-on Chase Coleman and redshirt freshman Francisco Caffaro each scored the first points of their college careers late in the game.

No. 10 Villanova 78, Ohio 54: Saddiq Bey scored 19 points and Justin Moore added 18 to lead the Wildcats past the visiting Bobcats.

Villanova (2-1) broke the game open with a 27-4 run in the final 6:36 of the half, turning a one-point deficit into a 43-21 lead. Bey and Moore combined for 9-for-12 shooting and 4 of 6 from beyond the three-point line for 26 points.

No. 13 Memphis 102, Alcorn State 56: Lester Quinones had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Precious Achiuwa added 20 points, sending the host Tigers to a romp over the Braves.

No. 23 LSU 75, Nicholls State 65: Darius Days had a career-high 17 points and 11 rebounds to help the host Tigers beat the Colonels. Emmitt Williams added 11 points and a season-best 12 boards for LSU (2-1).

No. 25 Colorado 71, San Diego 53: D'Shawn Schwartz scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half, helping the host Buffs run past the scrappy Toreros for coach Tad Boyle's 10th winner in 10 home openers. Colorado guard Tyler Bey added 14 points and two impressive blocked shots on Braun Hartfield,

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

From left, Air Force defensive lineman Mosese Fifita, defensive back Jeremy Fejedelem, quarterback Donald Hammond III and wide receiver Ben Peterson celebrate after beating Colorado State.

Academies roundup

Hammond leads Air Force rally past Colorado State

Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Gerad Sanders transformed a short catch into a turning point.

Donald Hammond III ran for a touchdown and threw for three more, including a go-ahead 50-yard catch-and-run to Sanders in the fourth quarter as Air Force shook off an early two-touchdown deficit to beat Colorado State 38-21 on Saturday night.

"DJ (Hammond) found me and I saw the hole open up downfield," Sanders said. "I wanted to take the lead back for our team and spark some energy and that's what happened."

Sanders came open on a short crossing route and Hammond hit him in stride, allowing the receiver to break up field along the left sideline and then cut back all the way across the field, outrunning his pursuers to the goal line. The score was part of a string of 24 straight points for the Falcons (8-2, 5-1 Mountain West), which won its fifth straight. It's the longest winning streak for Air Force since closing the 2016 season with six consecutive victories.

"It was a huge lift because we knew we could drive the ball on them," Hammond said. "We just had to trust ourselves and just finish drives. It just came down to finishing drives at the end of the day."

Hammond added a 28-yard touchdown pass to Benjamin Waters later in the fourth quarter after earlier hitting him with a 31-yard score.

Patrick O'Brien threw for two touchdowns, including a 17-yard score to Dante Wright with 6:36

'I wanted to take the lead back for our team and spark some energy and that's what happened.'

Air Force wide receiver Geraud Sanders

On a 50-yard touchdown catch

remaining that pulled the Rams (4-6, 3-3) within three points. But the Falcons responded by grinding out another scoring drive that Hammond capped with a 1-yard run with 2:32 left to play.

Colorado State mounted another drive that reached the Air Force 1, but cornerback Zane Lewis stepped in front of O'Brien's goal-line pass and returned the interception 99 yards for a touchdown to seal the Falcons' fourth win in a row against the Rams. It capped a superb defensive effort by Air Force that also included eight sacks.

"They pressured me pretty well," O'Brien said. "They were stunting and they were adding linebackers late in the pass rush. I couldn't have the pressure."

Jake Koehnke kicked a 31-yard field goal in the final minute of the second quarter, pulling the Falcons to within 14-10 at the half after Colorado State struck for two first-quarter touchdowns. Defensive lineman Jake Ksiazek helped set up the score when he recovered a fumble by O'Brien at the Rams 34.

Army 47, VMI 6: Still feeling the effects of a season-long struggle against injuries, Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. didn't start the final home game

of his career at Michie Stadium. The senior star sure finished it with a flourish.

Pressed into action when sophomore starter Jabari Laws was injured early, Hopkins responded by rushing for a career-high 208 yards and a touchdown on just 16 carries as the Black Knights' triple option overwhelmed the Keydets.

"I felt good, just taking it day-by-day. That's kind of been my mindset," said Hopkins, who scored on a 63-yard run late in the third. "Just getting moving and taking some shots again felt really good. If you would have asked me this morning how today was going to go for me, I probably wouldn't have said (great)."

Senior Connor Slomka scored three times on short runs and teammate Kell Walker added a touchdown on a 59-yard scamper off a pretty pitch to the outside from Hopkins midway through the third quarter as Army (5-6) won its second straight after snapping a four-game losing streak.

"Overall, a good day," said Army coach Jeff Monken, who notched his 40th win at the academy to Tom Cahill for fourth all-time at West Point. "We're excited. Just proud of the effort of everybody."

Claypool's 4 TDs lead Irish rout

By JOHN FINERAN
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — If Chase Claypool and Ian Book continue connecting as they did Saturday in No. 16 Notre Dame's 52-20 rout of No. 21 Navy, the hotel roommates may deserve a penthouse suite.

Claypool caught four touchdown passes to match a school record and Book threw five for the third time this season as the Irish (8-2, No. 16 College Football Playoff) won their third straight game.

"The chemistry with Ian has definitely helped a lot," Claypool said. "I think trust is a big thing. I think he truly trusts me now. Not that he didn't before, but he knows exactly where to put the ball. He's throwing the ball up and giving me a chance to make a play."

Claypool caught seven passes from Book for 117 yards and now has 49 receptions for 768 yards this season.

"Chase is an important part of our offense, so he's going to get the football," Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said. "He was outstanding. We executed flawlessly in the first half against a really good Navy team."

The 17th straight home victory did not sell out Notre Dame Stadium. It was the first time since 1973 Thanksgiving Day against Air Force, a string of 273 sold-out games. A crowd of 74,080, 3,542 below capacity, saw Notre Dame win for the 79th time in the 93-game series that has been played continuously since 1927.

Book completed 14 of 20 passes for 284 yards and five touchdowns before exiting midway through the third quarter and the Irish up 45-3. It was his third game with five touchdown passes this season and followed a 38-7 victory at Duke in which he rushed for 139 yards and threw for four touchdowns, a Notre Dame first.

"I think we can safely assume he is the guy we thought he would be," Kelly said. "He started slowly but has now found himself. He is the leader of our offense and our

offense is playing at a high level now."

But Book turned the high praise toward his wide receiver.

"Chase is having an awesome year," Book said. "It's starting to show on Saturdays by how hard he's working in practice."

Claypool had scoring receptions of 7, 47 and 3 yards from Book to give the Irish a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter. Book threw a 70-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Braden Lenzy later in the quarter as Notre Dame took a 38-3 halftime lead and then hit Claypool with a 20-yard scoring pass on its final play of the game together. Claypool's TD haul matched Maurice Stovall, who caught four TD passes against BYU in 2005.

The loss ended a five-game winning streak for the Midshipmen (7-2, No. 23 CFP), who entered leading the nation in rushing with 357.9 yards per game.

"We got our butts whipped and it started with me," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "They had a great plan on both sides of the ball and we just got a total butt-whipping."

The Irish defense forced three first-half fumbles by shifty Midshipmen quarterback Malcolm Perry, who rushed 25 times for 117 yards before being replaced in the third quarter by freshman Perry Olsen.

Notre Dame defensive end Khalid Kareem forced two fumbles and linebacker Drew White had 10 tackles. The Irish turned four fumble recoveries into 24 points.

Perry was averaging 130.2 rushing yards entering the game. He managed a 46-yard run late in the first half that set up a Bijan Nichols' 27-yard field goal, but for the most part was contained. Meanwhile, Navy's defense, allowing just 310.6 yards a game, allowed 300 at halftime by the Irish and 410 for the game.

"We had to play almost perfect to beat these guys and fumbling doesn't help you beat anybody, and I take full ownership of that," Perry said.



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Notre Dame wide receiver Chase Claypool, left, makes a touchdown reception against Navy cornerback Cameron Kinley on Saturday

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BUTCH DILL/AP

Georgia wide receiver Demetris Robertson, right, is knocked out of bounds by Auburn defensive back Christian Tate during the second half of Saturday's game in Auburn, Ala. The Bulldogs won 21-14.

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores

EAST	
Albany (N.Y.) 20, New Hampshire 17	
Albright 17, Lebanon Valley 23	
Armstrong 47, WVI 6	
Bridgewater 38, American International 0	
Bloomington 20, Edinboro 17	
Brightwater (Mass.) 26, Mass. Maritime 20	
Brown 48, Columbia 24	
Bryant 20, Duquesne 16	
Bucknell 20, Georgetown 17	
CCSU 49, Robert Morris 28	
Carnegie-Mellon 24, Case Reserve 21	
Catholic 28, Maine Maritime 13	
Charleston (W.V.) 34, West Liberty 26	
Colgate 15, Lafayette 0	
Cornell 20, Dartmouth 17	
Delaware 17, Stony Brook 10	
Delaware Valley 28, Widener 21	
Edinboro 41, Clarion 17	
Endicott 35, Nichols 7	
Florida 47, Worcester St. 6	
Franklin & Marshall 55, Gettysburg 17	
Greenville 50, Furman 24	
Grove City 63, Thiel 0	
Hampden-Sydney 20, Holy Cross 49	
Hartford 49, Fordham 27	
Indiana (Pa.) 54, Shippensburg 24	
Itasca 42, Cortland 20	
Jacksonville 52, Mariast 45, 20T	
Johns Hopkins 42, McDaniel 0	
Lake Haven 28, Gannon 27	
Maine 34, Rhode Island 27	
Mass.-Dartmouth 19, Westfield 13	
Merchant Marine 56, Coast Guard 41	
Merrimack 17, Millersville 7	
Merrimack 57, Franklin Pierce 0	
Misericordia 49, Alvernia 28	
Montclair 57, 40, Keane 12	
Morgan St. 59, Va. Lynchburg 26	
Morrisville 51, 24, Brockport 21	
Muhlenberg 52, Morehead 19	
New England 24, Becker 20	
New Haven 27, Stonehill 11	
North Carolina 33, Delaware 27	
Notre Dame Coll. 31, W. Virginia 14	
Ohio St. 56, Rutgers 21	
Pace 34, S. Connecticut 20	
Penn 24, Harvard 20	
Penn St. 43, Indiana 27	
Rowan 24, College of William & Mary 20	
SUNY Maritime 41, Mount St. Joseph 9	
Sacred Heart 13, Lehig 6	
Salisbury 42, William Paterson 13	
Sale 34, Curry 13	
Shenandoah 50, Seton Hall 24	
Slippery Rock 37, Kutztown 35	
St. Anselm 64, MIT 21	
St. Anselm 61, Assumption 23	
St. Francis (Pa.) 42, Wagner 28	
St. Francis 31, Alfred 29	
St. Lawrence 31, Buffalo 26	
St. Vincent 27, Bethany (W.V.) 10	
Stevensson 31, Lynchburg 9	
Union College 63, Juniata 27	
Temple 29, Tulane 21	
Truman State 42, Urbana 14	
Union (N.Y.) 33, RPI 0	
Ursinus 27, Dickinson 19	
Westminster (Pa.) 28, Geneva 25	
W. Connecticut 26, Plymouth State 23	
W. Va. 34, West Virginia 24	
WPI 70, Norwich 28	
Wyoming 51, Wyo. 24	
Wesley 42, Wesleyan 14	
West Chester 20, California (Pa.) 19	
Wheeling Jesuit 27, Concord 20	
Wilmington 42, King 14	
Yale 51, Princeton 14	
SOUTH	
Alabama 38, Mississippi 37	
Alcorn St. 34, Alabama A&M 28	
Appalachian 49, Georgia 27	
Aspen 42, Murray 37	
Baylor 43, Methodist 21	
Berry 55, Austin 28	
Brigham Young 30, Millaps 20	
Brescia 42, Greensboro 37	
Cal State (Cal.) 41, Guilford 7	
Carson-Newman 49, Tusculum 13	
Charleston Southern 27, Presbyterian 17	
Chattanooga 34, Citadel 23	
Cincinnati 20, South Florida 17	
Clarkson 21, Wake Forest 17	
Davidson 42, Stetson 14	

Georgia holds off Auburn

No. 5 Bulldogs clinch SEC Eastern Division title with win over No. 13 Tigers

By JOHN ZENOR

Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Georgia's defense entered the fourth quarter trying for another shutout. The fifth-ranked Bulldogs ended it with two big stops — and another division title.

In between, things got interesting. Jake Fromm passed for three touchdowns and Georgia's defense delivered in the clutch, clinching the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division with a 21-14 victory over No. 13 Auburn

on Saturday.

"Our kids were very resilient to come into this place and lose momentum — obviously lose momentum — and be able to go back out and get it," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "I thought that showed some fortitude and ability to handle some tough, adverse things."

The Bulldogs (9-1, 6-1 SEC, No. 4 CFP) sailed through three quarters with a 21-0 lead before Auburn (7-3, 4-3) rallied in the fourth.

Georgia held on to become the first team to win three consecu-

tive SEC East titles since Florida won five in a row from 1992-96.

Fromm and De'Andre Swift produced enough to keep the Bulldogs on track for a shot at the College Football Playoffs. Most of the way, though, it was clear the game featured two of the league's top defenses.

Auburn scored two touchdowns in the fourth, then had a pair of drives stopped on fourth down in the final minutes. Freshman Bo Nix threw three incompletions and was sacked on the Tigers' final drive starting from their 27.



ROEULO V. SOLIS/AP

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is carted off the field after being injured in the first half of Saturday's game against Mississippi State.

Blame: Sad end to season for Tagovailoa

FROM BACK PAGE

will produce a better outcome for Tagovailoa.

In 33 games with Alabama, Tagovailoa has thrown 87 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions.

Some might question why Tagovailoa, a little less than a month after suffering a high ankle sprain, was playing. At that point in the game? Against a team Alabama could have handled without him?

Saban's comment sums it up: If the player can play (cleared by doctors) and wants to play (with the blessing of his family), he plays. It is a dangerous game, Tagovailoa's injury awful for Alabama, college football and for him. He has a multimillion-dollar arm and was about six months away cashing in.

"You cannot blame Coach Saban for that," former Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said during Fox's postgame show, which included a smart discussion about the injury with former players Brady Quinn, Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart.

"Every time you step on the football field and put your pads on you're at risk of being injured every single play," Leinart said. Unfortunately, between NCAA

amateurism rules and NFL rules prohibiting players from being drafted until they are three years out of high school, elite football players are left with few choices.

The biggest story in college football on Saturday was a sad one, but only football was to blame.

Alabama's playoff hopes: The Crimson Tide was going to need some help to make the College Football Playoff.

The Tide will beat Western Carolina next week, and then go to No. 13 Auburn, which lost to No. 5 Georgia, to finish the season. An argument can be made that beating Auburn with Mac Jones at quarterback could enhance the Tide's playoff credentials. Think Ohio State beating Wisconsin in the Big Ten title game in 2014 with third-stringer Cardale Jones.

That's wishful thinking for Alabama. Now, Bama will be asking the committee to anoint it one of the best four teams in the country with few impressive victories, likely no conference championships and without one of the best players in the country.

If the SEC is going to get two teams in the College Football Playoff, it will be LSU and Georgia.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday's stars

- Anthony Gordon, Washington State, threw for 520 yards and five TDs as the Cougars beat Stanford 49-22.
- Jonathan Taylor, Wisconsin, ran for 204 yards and two TDs in the No. 15 Badgers' 37-21 win over Nebraska.
- Joe Burrow, LSU, threw for 489 yards and five TDs as the top-ranked Tigers built a big lead and held off Mississippi 58-37.
- Jalen Hurts, Oklahoma, threw four TD passes in a big comeback and the No. 10 Sooners kept their playoff hopes alive, beating No. 12 Baylor 34-31 while ending the Bears' bid for an undefeated season.
- Shea Patterson, Michigan, threw for a season-high 384 yards and four TDs, sending the No. 14 Wolverines to a 44-10 romp over Michigan State for the Spartans' fifth straight loss.
- Justin Fields, Ohio State, threw for a career-high 305 yards and matched his best with four TD passes to lead the No. 2 Ohio State Buckeyes to a 56-21 win over Rutgers.
- Trevor Lawrence, Clemson, tied his career high with four TD passes, including three to Tee Higgins, and the No. 3 Tigers won their 26th straight game and completed a second-straight perfect ACC regular season with a 52-3 victory over Wake Forest.
- Kurt Rawlings, Yale, threw for a school-record six TDs as the Bulldogs cruised past Princeton 51-14.
- Quay Holmes, East Tennessee State, rushed for a career-high 255 yards and three TDs in a 38-33 win over Mercer.
- Pete Guerriero, Monmouth, rushed for 237 yards and three TDs and added three catches for 66 yards and a score in a 47-10 win over Campbell.
- Christian Lopez, North Alabama, threw for 446 yards and four TDs, the last with 1:57 left, to cap a 34-30 comeback victory over Gardner-Webb.
- Evan Hull, Northwestern, ran for 220 yards and four TDs in a 45-6 victory over UMass.
- Kaleb Barker, Troy, threw for 363 yards and a program-record six TDs in a 63-27 rout of Texas State.
- Ben DiNucci, James Madison, threw for three TDs and ran for another in a 48-6 win over Richmond.
- Samori Toure, Montana, had eight catches for a career-high 193 yards and three TDs in the Grizzlies' 35-16 win over Weber State.
- D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois, ran for 207 yards and two TDs in a 45-21 win over Western Illinois.
- Jason Huntley, New Mexico State, ran for 174 yards and a TD to help the Aggies beat Incarnate Word 41-28.
- Chase Fourcade, Nicholls, threw for 374 yards and three TDs in a 34-20 victory over McNeese.

— The Associated Press



Jim Young/AP

Northwestern's Evan Hull, center, celebrates as he scores a touchdown against Massachusetts during the first half on Saturday in Evanston, Ill. Hull ran for 220 yards and four TDs in a 45-6 victory.

How the AP Top 25 fared

- 1 LSU (10-0)** beat Mississippi 58-37. Joe Burrow threw for 489 yards and five touchdowns and LSU built a big lead and held off Mississippi 58-37. Tigers (10-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) scored on four of their first five possessions jump out to a 28-0 lead over the Rebels.
Next: vs. Arkansas, Saturday.
- 2 Ohio State (10-0)** beat Rutgers 56-21. Justin Fields threw for a career-high 305 yards and matched his best with four touchdown passes to lead the Buckeyes. J.K. Dobbins ran for two touchdowns and comeback Shaun Wade set up two early TDs with an interception and a forced fumble.
Next: vs. No. 9 Penn State, Saturday.
- 3 Clemson (11-0)** beat Wake Forest 52-3. Trevor Lawrence tied his career high with four touchdowns, three to Tee Higgins, and Clemson won its 26th straight game and completed a second-straight perfect Atlantic Coast Conference regular season. Travis Etienne ran for 121 yards, his sixth consecutive game with 100 or more yards.
Next: at South Carolina, Saturday, Nov. 30.
- 4 Alabama (9-1)** beat Mississippi State 38-7. Tua Tagovailoa sustained a season-ending right hip injury after being dragged down late in the first half and took the game over. Tagovailoa was 14-for-18 for 256 yards and two touchdown passes against Mississippi State, giving him 31 TD passes on the season. He was replaced in the second half by Mac Jones, who went 7-for-11 for 113 yards.
Next: vs. Western Carolina, Saturday.
- 5 Georgia (9-1)** beat No. 13 Auburn 21-14. Jake Fromm passed for three touchdowns and Georgia's defense held Auburn late, helping the Bulldogs clinch the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division title. Georgia sailed through three quarters with a 21-0 lead before Auburn rallied in the fourth.
Next: vs. Texas A&M, Saturday.
- 6 Oregon (9-1)** beat Arizona 34-6. Justin Herbert threw for 333 yards and four touchdowns and Oregon won its ninth straight game and secured a spot in the Pac-12 championship game. Graduate transfer Juwan Johnson caught five passes for 93 yards and a score for the Ducks.
Next: at Arizona State, Saturday.
- 7 Minnesota (9-1)** lost to No. 23 Iowa 23-19. Minnesota got to 23-19 with 3:27 to play when Rodney Smith scored on a 1-yard dive. The Gophers had a final chance, but quarterback Tanner Morgan was injured by Joe Evans and A.J. Epenesa on back-to-back plays, then backup Cole Kramer's pass was intercepted by Riley Moss on fourth down.
Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
- 8 Utah (9-1)** beat UCLA 49-3. Zack Moss ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns and added 65 receiving yards to help the Utes rout UCLA. Tyler Huntley threw for a season-high 335 yards and two touchdowns on 14-for-18 passing. Brant Kuithe had a career-high 132 yards and a touchdown on five catches.
Next: at Arizona, Saturday.
- 9 Penn State (9-1)** beat No. 24 Indiana 34-27. Quarterback Sean Clifford scored three touchdowns Saturday, leading Penn State past Indiana. Clifford also completed 11 of 23 passes for 179 yards and ran for 55 yards. Journey Brown rushed 21 times for 100 yards and added a score.
Next: at No. 2 Ohio State, Saturday.
- 10 Oklahoma (9-1)** beat No. 12 Baylor 34-31. Gabe Brice kicked a 31-yard field goal with 1:45 left after Jalen Hurts threw four touchdown passes in a big comeback and Oklahoma kept its playoff hopes alive. Oklahoma erased a 31-0 touchdown half-time deficit and tied it at 31 on Hurts' 2-yard TD pass to Brayden Willis with 5:25 left.
Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.
- 11 Florida (9-2)** beat Missouri 23-6. Kyle Trask threw two touchdown passes after a sluggish first half for Florida. Trask completed 23 of 35 passes for 282 yards. That was plenty of offense for Florida, which held Missouri to 204 total yards. Linebacker Jon Greenard had two sacks and five tackles for loss.
Next: vs. Florida State, Saturday, Nov. 30.
- 12 Baylor (9-1)** lost to No. 10 Oklahoma 34-31. The Bears took a 28-3 first-half lead but couldn't hold on and saw their 11-game winning streak end. Charlie Brewer had two touchdown passes and two touchdown runs in the first half.
Next: vs. No. 22 Texas, Saturday.
- 13 Auburn (7-3)** lost to No. 5 Georgia 21-14. T. The Tigers fell to 1-3 in games against teams currently ranked in the Top 11, but all of the games have been competitive. Freshman quarterback Bo Nix completed 30 of 50 passes for 245 yards and a touchdown.
Next: vs. Sanford, Saturday.
- 14 Michigan (8-2)** beat Michigan State 44-10. Shea Patterson threw for a season-high 384 yards and four touchdowns and Michigan handed Michigan State its fifth straight loss. The Wolverines scored 24 straight points after giving up the first touchdown and coasted to their most lopsided win in the rivalry since a 49-3 victory in 2002.
Next: at No. 24 Indiana, Saturday.
- 15 Wisconsin (8-2)** beat Nebraska 37-21. Jonathan Taylor ran for 204 yards and two touchdowns, Aaron Cruickshank returned a kickoff 89 yards for a score and Wisconsin beat Nebraska.
Next: vs. Purdue, Saturday.
- 16 Notre Dame (8-2)** beat No. 21 Navy 52-20. Chase Claypool caught four touchdown passes to match a school record and the Irish shut down Navy's triple-option. Ian Book completed 14 of 20 passes for 284 yards and five touchdowns before exiting midway through the third quarter.
Next: vs. Boston College, Saturday.
- 17 Cincinnati (9-1)** beat South Florida 20-17. Sam Crockett kicked a 37-yarder field goal as time expired to give Cincinnati at least a share of the American Athletic Conference East division title. The Bearcats rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit to win for the eighth straight time, getting touchdown runs from Michael Warren and Gerrid Doaks before Desmond Ridder led an 11-play, 60-yard drive to win the game.
Next: vs. Temple, Saturday.
- 18 Memphis (9-1)** beat Houston 45-27. Brady White threw for 341 yards and five touchdowns and ran for another score and Memphis overcame a 10-point first-quarter deficit to beat Houston. White completed 22 of 33 passes. Damonte Coxie caught four passes for 93 yards and two touchdowns.
Next: at South Florida, Saturday.
- 19 Boise State (9-1)** beat New Mexico 42-19. Jaylon Henderson threw for 292 yards and three touchdowns, Sonatone Lui had two fumble recoveries, including one for a score, and the Broncos beat New Mexico. Boise State raced out to a 28-0 lead in the first quarter and was never seriously challenged.
Next: at Utah State, Saturday.
- 20 SMU (9-1)** did not play. Defense is an issue for the Mustangs, who have allowed at least 500 yards four times in five games after posting mostly respectable numbers early in the season.
Next: at No. 21 Navy, Saturday.
- 21 Navy (7-2)** lost to No. 16 Notre Dame 52-20. The Irish defense forced at three first-half fumbles by Navy's shifty quarterback Malcolm Perry, who rushed 25 times for 117 yards before being replaced in the third quarter by freshman Perry Olsen, who had a 43-yard TD pass to Mychal Cooper and a 2-yard TD run.
Next: vs. No. 20 SMU, Saturday.
- 22 Texas (6-4)** lost to Iowa State 23-21. Connor Assalley kicked a 36-yard field goal as time expired and Iowa State knocked off Texas. Brock Purdy had 354 yards passing and two TDs for the Cyclones. Brayden Nanavson missed an apparent 42-yard field goal with 2:12 to go, but Texas was called for being offside and Iowa State was awarded a first down by inches. Sam Ehlinger passed for 273 yards and three TDs for Texas, losers of three of its last five.
Next: at No. 12 Baylor, Saturday.
- 23 Iowa (7-3)** beat No. 7 Minnesota 23-19. Nate Stanley threw for two touchdown passes and Tyler Goodson ran for a score and Iowa handed Minnesota its first loss. The Hawkeyes struck quickly, scoring touchdowns on their first three possessions, then held off Minnesota's charge in the second half.
Next: vs. Illinois, Saturday.
- 24 Indiana (7-3)** lost to No. 9 Penn State 34-27. Peyton Ramsey completed 31 of 41 passes for 371 yards and a touchdown and ran for two more for the Hoosiers, who out-gained Penn State 462 to 371.
Next: vs. No. 14 Michigan, Saturday.
- 25 Oklahoma State (7-3)** beat Kansas 31-13. Chuba Hubbard ran for 122 yards and two touchdowns and caught two passes for 42 yards for the Cowboys. Kolby Harvell-Peel led Oklahoma State's defense with two interceptions.
Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hurts, Sooners rally to hand Bears first loss

QB lifts No. 10 Oklahoma past No. 12 Baylor with 3 second-half TD passes

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts was shouting at himself coming off the field after his third turnover, a fumble when running toward the end zone.

When it was all over, Hurts and coach Lincoln Riley were sharing a joyous embrace and the No. 10 Sooners' playoff hopes were still alive.

Gabe Brkic kicked a 31-yard field goal with 1:45 left after Hurts threw four touchdown passes for the Sooners, who overcame a 25-point deficit and the quarterback's miscues in a 34-31 win over No. 12 Baylor on Saturday night that ended the Bears' bid for an undefeated season.

"I put us in a horrible situation and we found a way to come back," Hurts said.

'I put us in a horrible situation and we found a way to come back.'

Jalen Hurts
Oklahoma QB
play because of what Riley called only a "medical decision."

Hurts still completed 30-of-42 passes for 297 yards with three of his TDs to freshmen — two to Austin Stogner and the game-tying 2-yarder to Brayden Willis with 5:25 left. The quarterback also ran for 114 yards.

Baylor (9-1, 6-1, No. 13 CFP) had its 11-game winning streak snapped and joined No. 7 Minnesota with their first losses Saturday. The only remaining undefeated FBS teams are No. 1 LSU, No. 2 Ohio State and No. 3 Clemson.

"We told our guys it's going to have to bother us, hurt us," Bears coach Matt



RAY CARLIN/AP

Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts, left, is chased by Baylor linebacker Blake Lynch, right. Hurts had four touchdown passes, including three in the second half, to lead his team to a 34-31 win Saturday in Waco, Texas.

Rhule said. "But hopefully we'll come back next week rejuvenated, learn from it with a chance to play these guys again sometime down the road."

The Sooners and Baylor could meet again in three weeks in the Big 12 championship game. The league's top two teams play Dec. 7 in Arlington, Texas.

Oklahoma erased a three-touchdown halftime deficit and tied the game at 31-all on Hurts' 2-yard TD pass to Willis. The Bears had run only seven plays for 35 yards in the second half until that point, and their only first down had been on a play when JaMycal Hasty fumbled, before punting again.

"We were so amped to play this game, maybe too much honestly in the beginning," Riley said.

Baylor had one more chance after the go-ahead field goal. The Bears got to the Sooners' 40 before linebacker Nik Bonitto's interception with 29 seconds left.

Charlie Brewer, who finished 18-of-29 passing for 194 yards, threw two touchdown passes to Denzel Mims and ran for two more in the first half when Baylor jumped out to a 28-3 lead.

Hurts was running toward the end zone to get Oklahoma within a touchdown in the third quarter when he fumbled — big defensive end James Lynch reached out and knocked the ball loose, then recovered it in the end zone.

That was after the Sooners had opened the second half with Stogner's second TD catch, a 3-yarder that made it 31-17. Hurts bounced back from his fumble on the next

drive, hitting Theo Wease for a 19-yard touchdown.

"We all felt like we had a chance," Riley said. "Not one person on this sideline didn't believe it. ... You've still got to go make it happen."

Grayland Arnold returned an interception 71 yards to set up Brewer's 9-yard TD to Mims that made it 28-3 with 11 minutes left in the first half. Brewer had a 4-yard TD run on the first play of the second quarter that set up when Blake Lynch tripped up Hurts, who fumbled when he reached down to try to stay on his feet.

After Brkic kicked a 39-yard field goal on Oklahoma's opening drive, Brewer had a 2-yard TD run and then lofted a perfectly thrown 30-yard touchdown pass that Mims caught crossing the goal line.



MATTHEW PUTNEY/AP

Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley threw two touchdown passes to lead No. 23 Iowa to a 23-19 defeat of No. 7 Minnesota Saturday in Iowa City, Iowa.

No. 23 Iowa holds off No. 7 Minnesota

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Minnesota's undefeated season came to an end in a place where the Gophers have struggled for a while.

Nate Stanley threw two touchdown passes and Tyler Goodson ran for a score to help No. 23 Iowa beat No. 7 Minnesota 23-19 on Saturday, handing the Gophers their first loss while hurting their playoff prospects.

The Gophers (9-1, 6-1, No. 8 CFP) haven't won at Kinnick Stadium since 1999, losing nine straight on the road in the series. The loss will hurt them in the rankings, but they stay in control of their own fate in the Big Ten West Division race.

That, coach P.J. Fleck said, is something his team needs to remember.

"This is one game," Fleck said.

"Everything else is sitting right in front of us. If we can play a game that poorly, we can come back from it."

"This is not the end of the world. It hurts. It should hurt — it's a rivalry game. This is what college football is all about. ... This is one game. That's all that means."

The Hawkeyes (7-3, 4-3) struck quickly, scoring touchdowns on their first three possessions, then held off Minnesota's charge in the second half for their first victory over a ranked opponent this season.

"We did a great job of controlling the first half," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "We knew we were going to have to score some points today. It's no mirage how many points they've scored, the yards that they've had."

"We had to open it up," said

wide receiver Nico Ragaini, who scored the Hawkeyes' first touchdown on a 21-yard pass from Stanley.

"Defensively, we started too slow," Gophers linebacker Thomas Barber said.

Minnesota got to 23-19 with 3:27 to play when Rodney Smith scored on a 1-yard dive. But Brock Walker's extra-point attempt missed. Iowa's Nate Wieting then recovered the onside kick.

The Gophers had a final chance. But quarterback Tanner Morgan was sacked by Joe Evans and A.J. Epenesa on back-to-back plays, then backup Cole Kramer's pass was intercepted by Riley Moss.

Stanley threw for 173 yards. Goodson rushed for 24 yards. Morgan threw for 368 yards. Tyler Johnson had nine catches for 170 yards.

SPORTS



Calling an audible
Kaepernick throws for scouts after shifting workout » **NFL, Page 27**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Playing the blame game

Tagovailoa's injury disastrous, but fault can't be laid on Saban, Alabama

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The only foolproof way to avoid being injured playing football is to not play at all.

Alabama star Tua Tagovailoa started Saturday at Mississippi State, a week after he looked gimpy on a surgically repaired ankle but played great against LSU. The junior quarterback seemed done for the day with the Crimson Tide up 28 points late in the first half, but Tagovailoa lobbied for one more series and Tide coach Nick Saban gave it to him.

"We can second-guess ourselves all we want," Saban said. "We told Mac (Jones) to warm up and we were going to go 2-minute before the half. Tua wanted to play in the game and so I don't really make a lot of decisions worrying if a guy is going to get hurt."

That final series ended with Tagovailoa seriously injured. Alabama announced hours after it had beaten Mississippi State 38-7 that Tagovailoa

had suffered a dislocated right hip and would miss the remainder of the season.

The quarterback who was a national championship game MVP and Heisman Trophy candidate before he ever started a game at Alabama will probably never take another snap for the Tide. A junior who had a real chance of being the first pick in April's NFL draft is now facing an uncertain future. When a football player gets a hip injury the first name that comes to mind is Bo Jackson, whose career was ended by a dislocated hip in 1990. Hopefully, advancements in medicine

SEE BLAME ON PAGE 29

'We can second-guess ourselves all we want. ... Tua wanted to play in the game and so I don't really make a lot of decisions worrying if a guy is going to get hurt.'

Nick Saban
Alabama coach

'Every time you step on the football field and put your pads on, you're at risk of being injured every single play.'

Matt Leinart
College football analyst

Alabama QB
Tua Tagovailoa
AP photo



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